

CONGRATULATIONS

TEAM DIGITX

CHALLENGE ON SELF AWARENESS IN HETEROGENEOUS MULTI-ROBOT SYSTEMS
CONFERENCE ON AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS 2021, MONTREAL, CANADA



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University of Moratuwa

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ENTC
Team T-Cubed
Signal Processing Cup
International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP) 2021



Ms. Amashi Niwarthana

Mr. Harindu Jayarathne

Ms. Kithmini Herath

Mr. Pamudithz Somarathne

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Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

Course Reviewers Visit to the Department of Building Economics

The Department of Building Economics organised an External Examiners' Visit during 9th - 11th of August 2021 to review the B.Sc. (Hons) in Quantity Surveying and B.Sc. (Hons) in Facilities Management degree programmes. This was held in hybrid mode comprising online meetings and physical inspections. The examination panel included;

- Prof. Alison Cotgrave, School of Civil Engineering and Built Environment, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom
- Ch.QS. Russell Cooray, Director, Woodbridge Consultants, Moratuwa
- Mr. Remaz Ghouse, Chief Operating Officer, Overseas Realty (Ceylon) PLC



Webinar on Biosafety Awareness

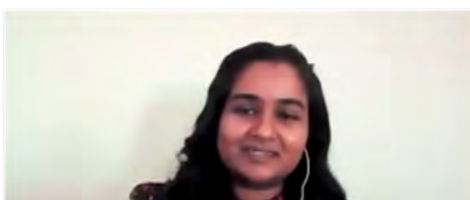
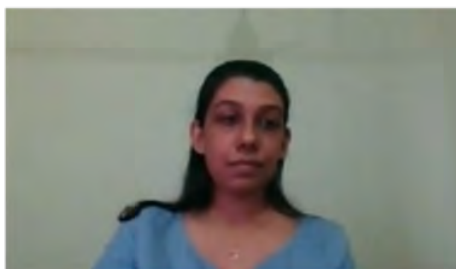
A webinar on Biosafety Awareness organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was held on the 20th of May 2021 via Zoom. The webinar was held with the goal of disseminating knowledge on biosafety amongst participants from the University of Moratuwa.

Dr. Thilini U Ariyadasa, Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemical and Process

Engineering, University of Moratuwa, delivered a lecture on the "Importance of biosafety and biosafety communication", to successfully initiate the webinar. The session was vivified by a debate on the manner in which modern biotechnology will be essential for food production in Sri Lanka, and a poster presentation on Genetically Modified (GM) foods, with the participation of students from the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

The debate and poster presentation were followed by a lecture on "Modern Biotechnology in Food Production", delivered by Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan, Global Coordinator of International Services for the Acquisition of Agribiotech Applications, concurrently working as an International Consultant in the Biosafety Project at the FAO. The session also included an informative address by Mr. Shanaka Gunawardena, National Project Manager, Biosafety Project, FAO on the National Biosafety Project.

Finally, a productive Q&A session followed, and the webinar was wound up with closing remarks by Ms. Peshalya Kothalawala, Lecturer, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa.



Completion of PhD by Dr. Chapa Sirithunge



The Department of Electrical Engineering congratulates, Dr. Chapa Sirithunge, on the successful completion of her Doctor of Philosophy degree under the supervision of Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara. This is the Second PhD of the Intelligent Service Robotics Group (ISRG), Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa. Her research, "Framework for Adaptive Human-Robot Interaction Initiation for Domestic Environments", was conducted using the Moratuwa Intelligent Robot (MIRob) platform developed by the ISRG. It is commendable that she has achieved more than the typical international level of research outcomes in

the field of robotics through an exceptional list of publications. Furthermore, The Department of Electrical Engineering would like to thank her for her commitment in improving the state of the art facilities in service robotics and guiding the junior students of the service robotics group of the Department during the last four years. Details of her publications:

Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=72CpRjoAAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate

ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Chapa-Sirithunge>

“Ultra-low Thermal Conductivity of Nanoparticle Chains: A Nanoparticle based Structure for Thermoelectric Applications” - Published in the Journal of Applied Physics

A research article titled "Ultra-low thermal conductivity of nanoparticle chains: A nanoparticle based structure for thermoelectric applications" authored by Pasan Henadeera, Nalaka Samaraweera, Chathura Ranasinghe and Anusha Wijewardane has been published in the Journal of Applied Physics [DOI: 10.1063/5.0060487]. In this research, a one-dimensional, crystalline nanostructure synthesized by sintering Si nanoparticles, called Nano Particle Chain (NPC) structures, is proposed and the structure is systematically analyzed for its thermal transport properties and compared with its nanowire counterparts.

Academic & Industry Collaboration

hSenid Partners with the University of Moratuwa



hSenid Business Solutions, a leading Human Resources solutions provider in Sri Lanka, partnered with the University of Moratuwa in the delivery of Human Resources Information Systems as part of its Bachelor of Business Sciences degree program.

This partnership further amplifies the scope of the program, adding strategic value to the study of Human Resources by capturing the essence of HRIS, and encapsulating the complete automation of HR with Analytics and Artificial Intelligence-driven HR Tech

advancements. This also aims at grooming future minds in the pursuit of building a strong business landscape in Sri Lanka that moves ahead globally with technology.

Striving to keep up as an indigenous multinational, hSenid Business Solutions

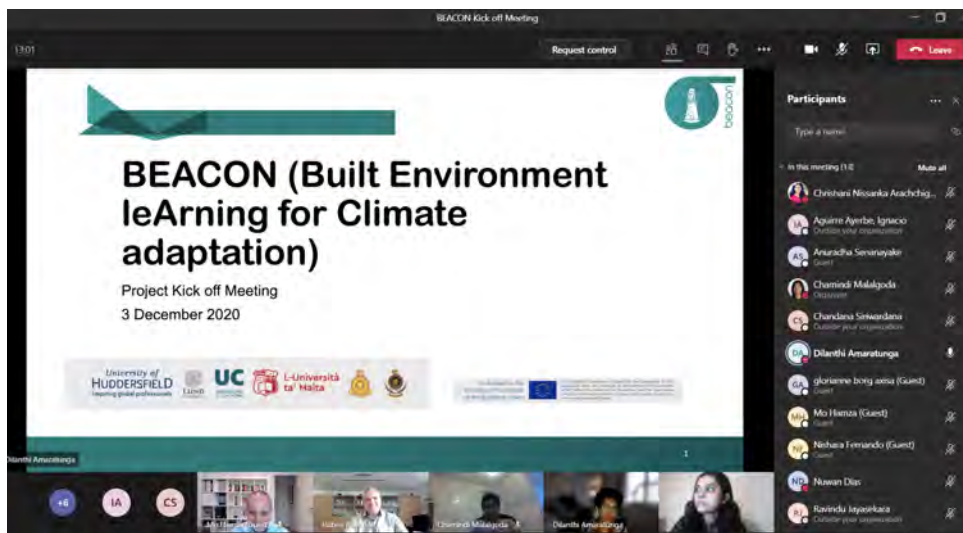
assumes the responsibility of taking care of over 1,000,000 users in 1,300 organisations across 18 industries and operates from Australia, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Mr. Sampath Jayasundara (Director and Chief Executive Officer of hSenid Business Solutions said “We feel privileged to be working with the University of Moratuwa in the delivery of Human Resources Information Systems as part of its undergraduate degree program. We also feel honoured to be supporting the Sri Lankan higher education system further its reach in business and technology. I look forward to seeing the opportunities this partnership will create and the positive impact it creates in taking young Sri Lankan minds to international ground.”

Senior Prof. SWSB Dassanayaka, Dean of the Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, mentioned, “We are very much happy and lucky to partner with hSenid Business Solutions for the benefit of our undergraduate students to use this software for the teaching and learning activities in Human Resource Information Systems. We are quite sure that the hSenid partnership will improve our teaching and learning in this business discipline and add more value to the academic community, especially for the development of undergraduate skills to be on par with current market requirements.”

The event was held in the Main board room of the University of Moratuwa on 05th July,

2021 The following members represented the event from both the University of Moratuwa and hSenid Business Solutions; From Left: Ms. Vichalya Wijesuriya (Head –Marketing and Communications), Mr. Mahinda Pathirana (Head – Support and Enterprise Delivery), Mr. Asitha Goonewardena (Chief Product Owner), Mr. Sampath Jayasundara (Director and Chief Executive Officer – hBS), Senior Professor SWSB Dasanayaka (Dean – Faculty of Business), Senior Prof. VM Wickramasinghe (Department of Management of Technology), Dr. Amali Wijekoon (Head – Department of Management of Technology), and Mr. Shenal Rajakarunanayake (Department of Industrial Management).

Department of Civil Engineering Receives EU ERASMUS+ Grant



Department of Civil Engineering Received an EU ERASMUS+ Grant to Investigate Climate Resilience in Built Environment – BEACON Project.

BEACON (Built Environment leArning for Climate adaptatiON) is a collaborative research project co-funded by the EU Erasmus+ programme. This three-year research initiative aims to develop trans-disciplinary and innovative research-based learning in built environment to tackle climate change in coastal regions. the project aims to develop trans-disciplinary and innovative research-based learning in built environment to tackle climate change in coastal regions and the following objectives have been set out.

- To identify climate change impacts on the built environment in coastal regions
- To develop a coherent framework for integrating the requirements of the

Paris Agreement with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR) in the context of the impact of climate change on the built environment in coastal regions

- To recognize opportunities for climate adaptation in the coastal built environment in line with the coherent framework
- To understand skills gaps in climate adaptation in the built environment to tackle climate change in coastal regions.
- To develop trans-disciplinary and innovative research-based learning to improve competencies in climate change adaptation in the built environment in coastal regions.

In terms of outputs, this research project has 11 intellectual outputs.

The project consortium consists of four European universities, namely University of Huddersfield, UK, University of Cantabria, Spain, Lund University, Sweden, University of Malta, Malta together with two Sri Lankan universities University of Colombo and University of Moratuwa. The Department of Civil Engineering of the University of Moratuwa, as one of the pioneers in the context of civil infrastructure planning and development, will be mainly involved in the development of a comprehensive framework for climate change adaptation in design, construction and retrofitting aligning with Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Dr. Chandana Siriwardana will be leading the intellectual output with two research engineers, Mr. Bawantha Sandaruwan Rathnayaka and Mr. Dilum Rajapakse.

More information can be found on the project website - <http://beacon-researchproject.org>

Guest Lecture on “Facilities Managers’ Roles in Office Buildings”

An online guest lecture on “Facilities Managers’ Roles in Office Buildings” was organized for the Level I Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Pubudu Randika, who is the Executive Facilities Manager of John Keells Holdings PLC, on 18th August 2021.

Guest Lecture on “Management and Accounting Skills for Professional Quantity Surveyors”

An online guest lecture on “Management and Accounting Skills for Professional Quantity Surveyors” was delivered to the Level I Quantity Surveying undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics on 16th September 2021 by Ch.QS Duleesha Wijesiri. This guest lecture was organized by the Quantity Surveying Alumni Association, University of Moratuwa.

Webinar on Safe Breathing

A presentation on “Plastic Face Masks” was delivered by Senior Lecturer Dr. (Mrs) Shantha Egodage of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa at the Web Seminar on Safe Breath on 19th June 2021. The seminar focused on Sustainable Cities and Communities and was organized by the G17 University Ambassadors Consortium from the University of Sri Jayawardanepura,

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Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) Research Colloquium - Series 74

The Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) virtually conducted its 74th research colloquium on “Writing a scientific article: A step by step guide for beginners” on 23rd September 2021. The guest speaker was Dr. Tharusha Ranadewa, Lecturer, Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion.

Guest Lecture on “Facilities Managers’ Roles in Residential Buildings”

An online guest lecture on “Facilities Manager’s roles in Residential Buildings” was organized for the Level I Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics. The lecture was delivered by Ms. Erandi Wijayawardena, Senior Executive - FM at Realty Management Services (Pvt) Ltd on 25th August 2021 .

Webinar on Polymer Recycling



POSTER FOR WEBINAR ON POLYMER RECYCLING. VISIT AT WWW.ICHEM.AG.LK

| | |
|---|---|
|  INTRODUCTION TO SRI LANKAN POLYMER RECYCLING DR ANVES DOLE PAST PRESIDENT PLASTIC AND RUBBER INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA, PAST PRESIDENT SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS |  MODERATOR SHRILING GUNASEKARA EXETER UNIVERSITY PLC, EXETER Ph.D. IN POLYMER SCIENCE, IITM |
|  PLASTIC RECYCLING DR RANJITHA JAYASINGHE FAC. POLYMER SCI. & MATERIALS (AUSTRALIA), DEPARTMENT OF BIO POLYMER RESEARCH, INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, IITM | |
|  RUBBER RECYCLING MR HEMA SARANGODA CONSULTANT/FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY, IITM | |
|  CURRENT TRENDS IN POLYMER RECYCLING DR SHANTHA EGODAGE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND PROCESS ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA |  For Registration scan the QR code |
|  CHALLENGES IN POLYMER RECYCLING DR SULASHI SAMARASINGHE UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYAWARDANAPURA |  0112861653  polymer.ichem@gmail.com |

A presentation on Current Trends in Polymer Recycling was delivered by Senior Lecturer Dr. (Mrs) Shantha Egodage of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa at the Web Seminar on Polymer Recycling on 3rd June 2021. The seminar focused on plastic and rubber recycling practices in Sri Lanka, new polymer recycling technological innovations and challenges in polymer recycling, and it was organized by the Institution of Chemistry Ceylon.

Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) Research Colloquium - Series 73

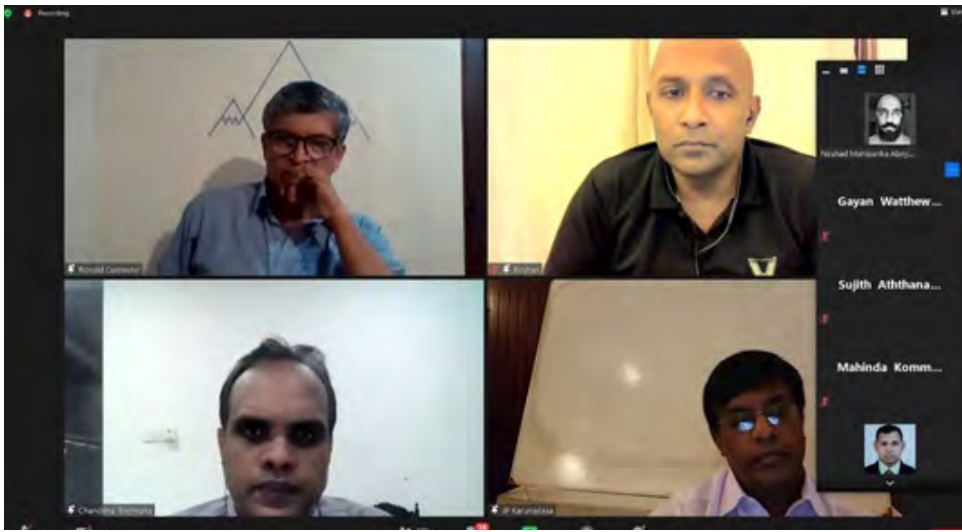
The Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) virtually conducted its 73rd research colloquium on “Academic Writing” on 27th July 2021. The guest speaker was Dr. Maggie Hardman, LEAP Coordinator, University of Salford, United Kingdom.

Series of Webinars Organized by Moratuwa University Textile Association (MUTA) - Department of Textile & Apparel Engineering

The Moratuwa University Textile Association (MUTA) of the Department of Textile & Apparel Engineering initiated a series of webinars to share cutting-edge technologies and modern concepts within its members and apparel industrialists in the country. The first webinar titled ‘Data-Driven Decision Making with Industry 4.0 solutions’ was held on 7th July, 2021, conducted by Mr Dilan Walgampaya - Chief Technology Officer and Co-founder of X.O Concepts (Pvt.) Ltd. The audience was mainly past graduates, undergraduates, and the staff of the department. The webinar drew 300 registrations with more than 200 participants in the live presentation and it ended with an interesting question-and-answer segment. The recording of the webinar is available on the MUTA YouTube channel.

Panel Discussion on Context of Electric Vehicles in Sri Lanka

A panel discussion entitled ‘Context of Electric Vehicles in Sri Lanka’ was organized by the IEEE Power Electronics Society SBC of the University of Moratuwa in collaboration with the Electrical Engineering Society of the UoM on the 5th of June 2021. The panelists for the day were Prof. Udayanga Hemapala (Head,



Department of Electrical Engineering, UoM), Dr. Beshan Kulapala (Director, Vega Innovation), and Eng. Ronald Comester (Deputy General Manager, Research & Development, CEB). This venture was moderated by Prof. Chandima D. Pathirana of the Department of Electrical Engineering, UoM.

The participation of over 270 individuals was noted. Attention was brought to the

current trends in the electric vehicles market in Sri Lanka and the rising demand for charging stations and reliable batteries. Also, the panelists talked about how the European countries have moved towards the electrification of cities and the market trends to be followed in the future. The audience was enthusiastic in asking questions mostly related to their own vehicles and of the measures taken

by the government to enhance the EV market and facilitate vehicle users. Also, the technologies used and those under development were discussed, and the vehicle, 'Nissan Leaf', received much attention as it is commonly used in Sri Lanka. Further, the panelists explained the limitations experienced by the country in moving towards facilitating the use of electric vehicles and the aspects to be developed to promote EVs in Sri Lanka. The event was also streamed through the Facebook page of the IEEE PELS SBC of the University of Moratuwa.

In summary, it could be noted that the Panel Discussion on 'Context of Electric Vehicles in Sri Lanka' powered by IEEE PELS SBC of University of Moratuwa in collaboration with the Electrical Engineering Society of UoM, was a thought-provoking and well-rounded discussion that encompassed all aspects of the domain and an indication of a promising year for the SBC.

Discussion on the Sri Lankan Bunkering Industry Overview

“Living Books”



University of Moratuwa Library opened the doors for a new user oriented service as “Living Books” by breaking the ice of the COVID pandemic season. Library announced its first “Living Book” Dr. Ravindra Ranasinha, PhD(Practitioner in Psychotherapy and Dramatherapy) who conducted the session on “Psychological Wellbeing for Youth” accordingly. Students accessed the Living Book via the ZOOM on 22nd July 2021. There were several activities, exercises, group discussions and

audios. Participants got an opportunity to draft the inner feelings of their life in a paper. They acted (danced) to a given music phrase. Finally, it became a two-way communication. Students accessed the living book by leaving their subject related text books away making the program totally as an extracurricular activity. Mrs. Nayani Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian initiated and coordinated the “Living Books” under the advices and guidance of the Librarian.



The Society of Transport and Logistics held its 9th webinar in the series of webinars conducted in collaboration with Hayleys Advantis Ltd., on 3rd of June 2021. Mr. Ibrahim Saleem, Member of the Group Management Committee, Hayleys Advantis Limited conducted this webinar on “Sri Lankan Bunkering Industry Overview”. This webinar was conducted with the objective of giving comprehensive knowledge on the Sri Lankan bunkering sector, including the manner in which the pandemic has impacted the industry, the existing opportunities for TLM undergraduates in the industry, and the technological utility in the bunkering industry.

Talk on the Impact for Research & Innovation

Due to COVID 19 pandemic, Challenges and Overcoming Challenges



Prof. Ruwan Gopura, Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Director/Research and Head, Department Medical Technology delivered a speech at the Research, Innovation and Work-Life Balance during COVID 19 session in the International Women in Engineering COVID 19 Congress 2021 on 21st August 2021. The conference was organised by the IEEE Bangladesh section. His talked about Impact for Research & Innovation Due to COVID 19 pandemic, Challenges and Overcoming Challenges.

Academic Programs

Orientation & Academic Programme - 01st Intake to the Faculty of Medicine

[From front page]



The inaugural session of Faculty of Medicine was held on a virtual platform on 03rd May 2021. The first intake consists of 104 students. The Orientation program was successfully completed. The Academic programme commenced online on the 01st of June 2021, which will later be shifted towards a hybrid model of both online and physical lectures, based on health and safety guidelines.

The students are scheduled to receive their clinical training at the District General Hospital Kalutara, which is currently

EEsoc Seminar Series - “FYP – For Your Preparation”

FYP
FOR YOUR PREPARATION

Stay tuned with us to join with the most awaited final year project preparation session series !

27TH AUG **ENG. SACHINI SOMATHILAKA**
"Present your FYP with confidence"

3RD SEP **MR. VINURA UDARAKA** **MR. CHATHURA DESHAI**
"Perfect game plan for your FYP during the pandemic"

4TH SEP **ENG. HASITHA ERANGA**
"How to gear up for an outstanding FYP"

“FYP-For Your Preparation” is a support seminar series organized by the Electrical Engineering Society, University of Moratuwa, with the aim of up scaling knowledge on final year projects. It was conducted virtually as a tripartite series which was held on 27th August, 3rd

September, and 4th September 2021 from 7.30 pm onwards via the zoom platform.

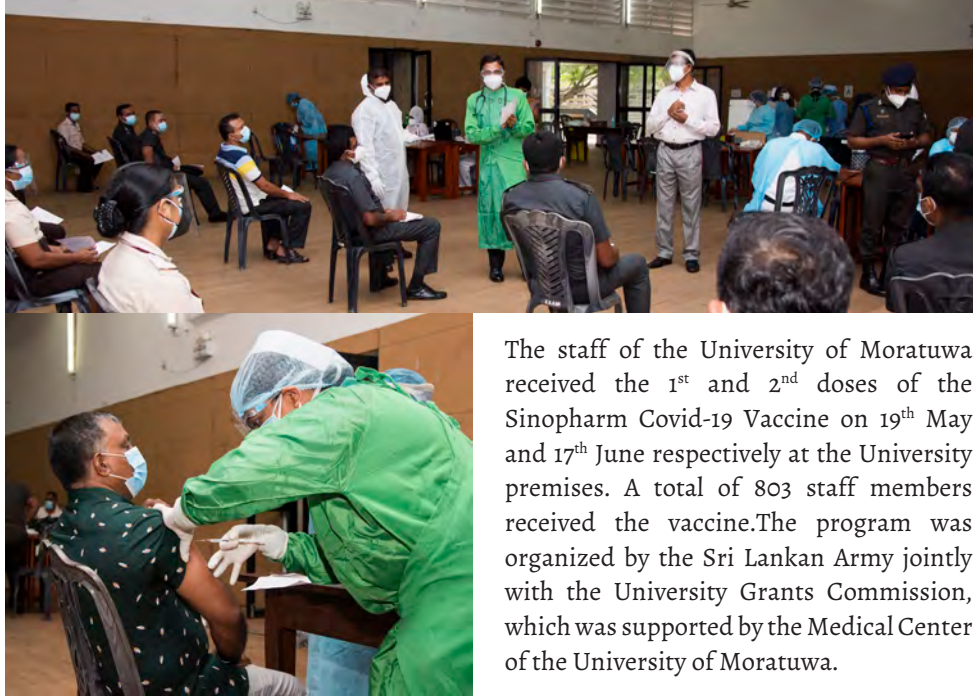
The first session was conducted by Eng. Sachini Somathilaka, a former undergraduate of the University of Moratuwa and has won several awards for her final year project. She shared her experience on how to successfully present final year projects confidently. The next session was conducted by Mr. Vinura Udaraka and Mr. Chathura Deshan, who shared their experiences during their journey preparing for their final year project during the pandemic. The gathering was informed on the difficulties to be expected and the methods to face them optimistically. The FYP series was concluded by the final session conducted by Eng. Hasitha Eranga, Systems Analyst, University of Moratuwa, who provided a deep awareness into the individual projects selected in 2017.

and Business Science, that will transform medicine as we know it.

An initial recruitment of around 20 of professionals, handpicked based on their commitment to innovation, futuristic approaches, quality of research and proven expertise in their respective fields has made the delivery of the orientation programme and the Foundation Module a reality. The potential of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Moratuwa is immense.

The University currently consists of six faculties, namely Architecture, Engineering, Business, Information Technology, the newly introduced Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Graduate studies. In its mission to become a “knowledge hub” in the country, the University actively encourages multidisciplinary collaborations in approaching the problems of today and tomorrow with innovative solutions.

Vaccination of University Staff



The staff of the University of Moratuwa received the 1st and 2nd doses of the Sinopharm Covid-19 Vaccine on 19th May and 17th June respectively at the University premises. A total of 803 staff members received the vaccine. The program was organized by the Sri Lankan Army jointly with the University Grants Commission, which was supported by the Medical Center of the University of Moratuwa.

DoME Introduces Twelve New Training Programmes Targeting People in Industry

The Department of Mechanical Engineering introduces twelve new short courses.

1. Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) for Engineers

This 6-day training programme targets personnel with SLQF-5 equivalent or above with a bachelor's degree in Engineering and provides substantial hands-on experience on CFD modelling for solving industrial fluid flow problems while developing the essential understanding on underlying fundamentals.

2. Fundamentals of Psychrometric and Cooling Load Estimation

This 4-day short course targets personnel with NVQ-7 or SLQF-5 (B.Sc. Engineering) who are new to the Air Conditioning Industry to develop their understanding of the basic concepts of thermodynamics, psychrometry, cooling load estimation, duct design of HVAC systems, and the sizing of air handling units (AHUs).

3. Fundamentals of Refrigeration Systems

This 4-day short course targets personnel with NVQ-7 or SLQF-5 (B.Sc. Engineering) who are new to the Air Conditioning Industry to develop their understanding of the basic concepts of thermodynamics, refrigeration cycles, refrigerants & international protocols, components of the refrigeration cycles, refrigeration systems

and controls, and the estimation of product cooling load and freezing load.

4. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems

This 4-day short course targets personnel with NVQ-7 or SLQF-5 (B.Sc. Engineering) who are new to the Air Conditioning Industry to develop their understanding of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, energy conservation opportunities, and ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers) standards.

5. Good Practices in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) Systems

This 4-day short course targets personnel with NVQ-3 to NVQ-5 or SLQF-2 to SLQF-3 who are new to the Air Conditioning Industry to develop their understanding of the fundamentals of refrigeration and air conditioning systems and to provide a sound knowledge on good practices in refrigeration air conditioning systems.

6. Mechatronic Systems Engineering

This 8-day short course targets personnel with Engineers and technicians in the industry, university students, students of technical colleges/institutes and those who are interested in Mechatronic Systems Engineering who are new to Mechatronic Systems to develop their understanding of the fundamentals of mechatronics, micro-controller programming, sensors,

and actuators and to obtain hands-on experience working with mechatronics systems.

7. Energy Management in Boilers and Steam Networks

This 4-day short course targets personnel with NVQ-7 or SLQF-5 (B.Sc. Engineering) who are new to Steam and Boiler Industry to develop their understanding of steam systems management with emphasize on the strategies and means to optimize the operations of whole plants in the most cost-effective way without compromising process requirements.

8. Firetube Boilers – Operation and Maintenance

This 4-day short course targets personnel with NVQ-3 equivalent or above who are new to Steam and Boiler Industry to develop their understanding of aspects of firetube steam boilers such as boiler safety, legislation and regulations, commissioning of new boilers, operation, troubleshooting, inspection, maintenance, and repairs.

9. Finite Element Analysis for Engineers

This 8-day short course targets personnel with SLQF-5 (B.Sc. Engineering) equivalent or above who are interested in Finite Element Analysis (FEA) to develop their understanding of FEA and Finite Element Method (FEM) and to empower them with the knowledge and skills to apply FEA/FEM in engineering problem solving.

10. Work study and job design for productivity improvement of production systems

This 6-day short course targets personnel with NVQ-5 (or SLQF-3) equivalent or above to develop their understanding of the underlying fundamentals and skills on work study and job design for productivity improvement in industry.

11. Traditional and contemporary machining processes

This 8-day training programme targets industry personnel such as workshop engineers and workshop engineering executives to provide an introduction and basic hands-on training on using

traditional and contemporary machining processes commonly used in industry.

12. Job duties and best practices for effective work performance (TO Training)

This 2-day workshop targets Technical Officers (TOs) of the state university system to develop their awareness and understanding of job duties and best practices for Technical Officers (TOs) in the newly established Technology Faculties attached to Sri Lankan state universities.

More details about these short courses can be obtained from <https://uom.lk/mech/courses/training-courses>

Inauguration Ceremony of the 2021 New Intake

- Department of Building Economics

The inauguration of the 2021 intake for B.Sc. (Hons) Quantity Surveying and B.Sc. (Hons) Facilities Management degree programmes organised by the Department of Building Economics was held on 25th May 2021. This was followed up with a weeklong orientation programme for the students. Due to the prevailing pandemic situation in the country, the inauguration and orientation were held online via the Zoom platform. Members of the academic staff of the Department, Faculty and the University conducted various events for the new students.

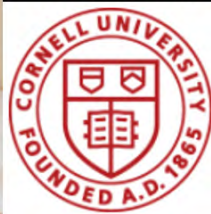
Foreign Visits

Fulbright Professional Fellowship Award

[From front page]



Cornell CALS
Global Development



Prof. Rohan Munasinghe of the Dept. of ENTC has won a Fulbright Professional Fellowship Award at Cornell University, New York to pursue research in several

areas including precision agriculture, adaptive traffic control, drone applications, and human-elephant conflict. He has been appointed as a Visiting Scholar at the

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of the Cornell University, and he works with the Cornell AgriTech Division, the Ornithology Lab, and the Engineering School. Prof. Munasinghe also engages with the Cornell Technology Licensing Office (CTL), studying the good practices Cornell has developed for University-Industry collaboration and Technology Transfer. The experience and exposure Prof. Munasinghe receives at Cornell will be useful for the development of the University of Moratuwa.

Conferences & Symposia

09th World Construction Symposium 2021 (WCS 2021)



The 9th World Construction Symposium 2021 (WCS 2021) on “Reshaping Construction: Strategic, Structural & Cultural Transformations towards the

Next Normal” was successfully held from 09th – 10th July 2021. Due to the prevailing pandemic situation, the symposium was held in a hybrid format with virtual paper presentations and minimal onsite participants for inauguration and sum-up events. The symposium was jointly organised by the Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) and Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU), Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University,

United Kingdom; Centre for Innovation in Construction and Infrastructure Development (CICID); The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong; Western Sydney University, Australia; The University of Newcastle, Australia; Colombo School of Construction Technology (CSCT), Sri Lanka; and Built Environment Project and Asset Management (BEPAM): Journal, published by Emerald Group Publishing.

The symposium was inaugurated with the presence of the Chief Guest, Prof.



Ananda Jayawardena, former Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa. The first keynote of the symposium on “Current Issues in Construction: Industry Reform” was delivered by Prof. Steve

Rowlinson, Emeritus Professor attached to the Department of Real Estate and Construction, Faculty of Architecture, University of Hong Kong. The second keynote on “Digital Twinning for the

Built Environment” was delivered by Dr. Ioannis Brilakis, a Laing O’Rourke Reader in Construction Engineering and the Director of the Construction Information Technology Laboratory at the Division of Civil Engineering of the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge, UK.

Forty-nine (49) papers were virtually presented at the Symposium by both local and international scholars pertaining to the main theme. Full papers of World Construction Symposium series are indexed in Scopus since 2019.

Student Achievements

ENTC’s Team T- Cubed, Emerge Champions at the International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)

[From front page]



A team of undergraduate students (Team T- Cubed) from the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering (ENTC) under the supervision of Dr. Prathapasinghe Dharmawansa from ENTC, University of Moratuwa, won the first place in the IEEE Signal Processing Cup (SP Cup) 2021 competition at the International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP) 2021 conference. ICASSP is the annual flagship conference of the IEEE Signal Processing Society which is the world’s premier association for signal processing engineers, academics, and industry professionals. This year it was held from the 6th to 11th of June 2021, virtually in Toronto,

Canada. The IEEE SP Cup competition is the most prestigious competition in signal processing for undergraduate students. About 50 teams participated in the competition with nearly 300 students from all over the world.

Caption: The winning team comprises four students from the second year and four students from the third year of the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering (ENTC): Amashi Niwarthana, Harindu Jayarathne, Kithmini Herath, Pamuditha Somarathne, Ramith Hettiarachchi, Tharindu Samarakoon, Tharindu Wickremasinghe, Thieshanthan Arulmolivarman. The team

was supervised by Dr. Prathapasinghe Dharmawansa.

This year’s challenge was to develop a control algorithm to configure the behavior of an Intelligent Reflecting Surface (IRS) for wireless communications. An intelligent reflecting surface is a two-dimensional array of metamaterial whose interaction with electromagnetic waves can be controlled. This might be utilized in 6G wireless networks to direct wireless signals from a transmitter towards a receiver to improve the communication performance.

The Team T - Cubed developed a novel and efficient algorithm by leveraging various statistical signal processing and mathematical optimization techniques to achieve optimal configurations with low latency requirements for real world implementations and was able to secure first place in the final round.

Signal Processing, a branch of electrical engineering that models and analyzes data representations of physical events, is at the heart of the modern digital world. Therefore, this remarkable accomplishment cements the capabilities of the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering, UOM and hence further enhances its image within the signal processing community in the world.

Team Mora Avions become the 2nd runner up in IMechE UAS Challenge Competition 2021



- Mr. Prasanna KM
- Mr. Somarathna HMKV
- Mr. Wijesinghe WPDNN

Team Mora Avions, a group of students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, representing the university has successfully completed the IMechE UAS (Unmanned Air Systems) Challenge Competition (Virtual) 2021 and became the 2nd runner-up competing with 15 teams from all over the world. They have also been able to win the Award for the Best

Environmentally Sustainable Design. The members of the winning team are,

- Mr. Abeysinghe AHMSC
- Ms. Adikaram NWAMSH
- Mr. Ariyaratne HRSKB
- Mr. Chamika KKDV
- Mr. Chathuranga GD
- Mr. De Silva AKM
- Mr. Maduranga THSD

The group was guided by Dr. Jayasekara JGAS, Prof. Jayaweera ND, and Dr. Samaraweera KKMNP and ably supported by Mora Avions alumnus Mr. Dakshaka Amarathunga. The Department of Mechanical Engineering is grateful to all who supported to finish this year's competition on a high note and hope that this achievement will pave the way for a bright future for the Aeronautical Engineering Stream at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

ENTC's Team DigitX, Emerge Champions at the Internal Conference on Autonomous Systems (ICAS) 2021

[From front page]



Team DigitX, a team of ten undergraduates from the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering (ENTC) under the supervision of Dr. Chamira Edussooriya from ENTC, University of Moratuwa, emerged as the champions of the Students Challenge at the Internal Conference on Autonomous Systems (ICAS) 2021 conference. The conference was held virtually in Montreal, Canada from August 11 to 13, 2021. ICAS 2021 is the premier international forum organized by the IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) through IEEE SPS Autonomous Systems Initiative, for presenting the technological

advances and research results in the fields of theoretical, experimental and applied autonomous systems. IEEE ICAS was held for the first time this year and it focused on providing an updated state-of-the-art over advanced signal processing theories and techniques that are relevant for developing autonomous systems.

The ICAS 2021 Students Challenge was on "unsupervised anomaly detection through self-aware autonomous systems", to detect abnormal events during the navigation of a ground/ aerial vehicle. The team was able to develop an unsupervised learning algorithm

with state-of-the-art signal processing and machine learning techniques such as auto-encoders, recurrent neural networks for time-series data signal processing.

Based on the inertial measurement unit (IMU) sensor data, video data captured by the cameras of autonomous systems in several camera perspectives and light detection and ranging (LIDAR) sensor data (point clouds), the unsupervised model was trained to identify the normal situations that it saw during the training phase as normal and every other situation as abnormal (as per the challenge requirement a reference normal scenario was defined for each dataset). UoM won first place while a team from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), India and a team from CentralSupelec, France won first and second runners up, respectively. An autonomous system is an artificial system capable of performing a set of tasks with a high degree of autonomy. Developing computing systems with advanced levels of autonomy has been a crucial task for decades in order to manage ever-increasing requirements in complexity. This achievement by UoM places Sri Lanka at a higher position in the world signal processing community.

Team XCore wins 1st Runners Up in the Axiata Digital Labs AI Summit Hackathon 2021



A team of final year undergraduates of the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa won the first runners-up at the inaugural AI Summit Hackathon 2021, hosted by Axiata Digital Labs and sponsored by Dell Technologies, Snowflake, and Amazon Web Services. The winning team consisted of 4 students from batch 17 and they are Amesh

Jayaweera, Lasindu Budhara De Mel, Pavindu Lakshan, Thanveer Ahamed and Yasas Sandeepa. Axiata Digital Labs hosted its first AI summit this year and the hackathon was held alongside the summit as a global competition. This hackathon consisted of a 4-day pre-hackathon and the main hackathon, where the pre-hackathon was held as a combination of

a Kaggle Competition and a 30 minute MCQ test with 20 questions. In the Kaggle competition, participating teams had to develop a multi-class classification model with the best accuracy metrics and the MCQ test consisted of questions from fields such as machine learning, deep learning, and business use cases of AI. At the end of the pre-hackathon, out of over 90 teams, the top 30 teams were selected for the main hackathon which was held on 23rd, September.

The theme of the main hackathon was “Digital Twins for Enterprise”. Participating teams were given datasets of the operations of the Dialog Axiata PLC and required to propose and develop a digital twin that can be developed on the AWS platform, within 30 hours. Then the technical implementation was assessed and the top 10 teams with the best technical implementation were selected for the final business presentation. Out of those top 10 teams, 5 teams were selected as top winners and they were invited for the award ceremony.

Ink Your Thoughts – Article Writing Competition



Rumesh Charuka was adjudged first runner up at the Ink Your Thoughts 2021 – Article Writing Competition for his article “Emission-Free Maritime Cargo Transportation” and Buddhi Weerasinghe was adjudged second runner up for his article “Expansions in Planning as a Solution for Container Terminals”. This event was organized by the Next Generation of Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) – Sri Lanka and was held on 1st of May 2021.

Staff Achievements

Prof. GLD Wickramasinghe Appointed Director General of the Colombo Plan Staff College in Manila



Prof. GLD Wickramasinghe, was appointed as the 12th Director General of the Colombo Plan Staff College in Manila, Philippines from 1st September 2021 for a 3 year term. He is the first Sri Lankan to hold this position. The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) is an Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) and autonomous specialized agency of the Colombo Plan.

It was established in 1973 to assist the member countries of the Colombo Plan in developing and enhancing their technical education systems. It became operational in 1974 with Singapore serving as the first host Government. In 1987, the CPSC moved to Manila, Philippines upon the invitation of the Philippine Government.

He is a Professor in the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, University of Moratuwa. He has held key administrative posts during his academic profession: as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Vocational Technology (2016-2019), Chairman of the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) of the University of Moratuwa (2015-2016), and Head of the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology (2009-2012).

Featured Podcast “Tinkering with Tuk Tuks” by

Mr. Sasiranga De Silva

[From front page]



Mr. Sasiranga De Silva, an academic staff member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has recently been featured in the US Foreign Policy magazine podcast “Tinkering with Tuk Tuks”. During the podcast, Mr. Sasiranga De Silva discussed his success story of developing an electric conversion kit for conventional tuk-tuks in Sri Lanka. In 2015, Mr. De Silva initiated this project to convert the conventional tuk-tuks to electrically driven vehicles,

highlighting its environmental benefits. The project has already been recognized in both local and global platforms gathering attention across multiple policymakers.

The current podcast is a part of the ongoing podcast series “Heat of the Moment”. The podcast can be found via the following link. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/tinkering-with-tuk-tuks/id1504313685?i=1000539989290>

Dr. IN Manawadu Awarded Gold Shield at the ICAI International Research Awards

[From front page]



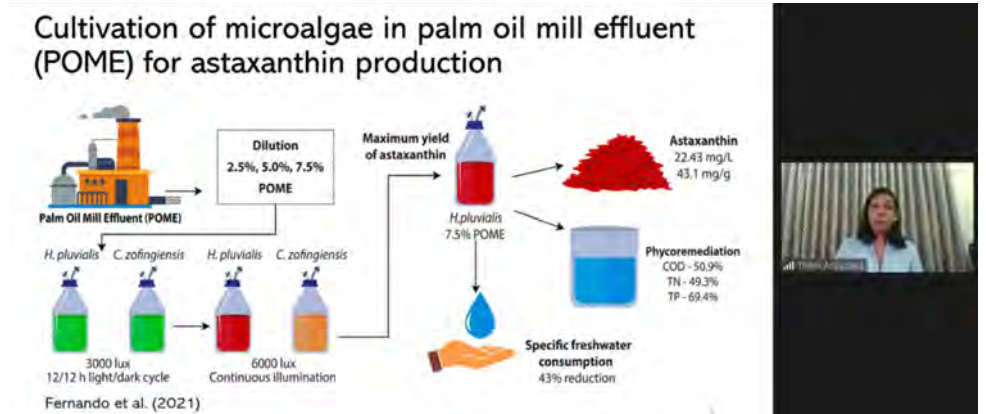
Senior Lecturer - Dr. IN Manawadu is Awarded Gold shield for the Best Research Paper in Taxation Category in ICAI International Research Awards 2021, organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in August 2021

Clubs & Societies

Webinar on “Future Prospects of Sri Lankan Food Industry – An Attempt to Transcend the Boundaries”



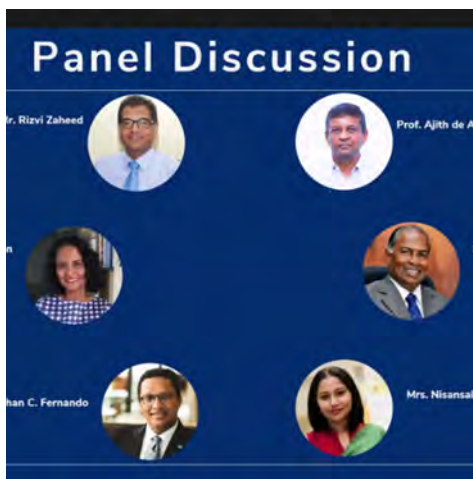
A webinar titled “Future Prospects of Sri Lankan Food Industry – An Attempt to Transcend the Boundaries”, organized by the Research for Undergraduates (R4U) Club of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa was held on the 31st of July 2021 via Zoom. The webinar was conducted as the fourth event of the “Explorer” series organized by the current executive board of the R4U club.



The inauguration of the webinar was graced by Prof. Nalin Wickramaarachchi, Dean/Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa and Prof. Shantha Walpalage, Head/Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

The keynote speech “Taking Sri Lanka’s Food Industry to New Heights via Sustainable High-tech Value Addition” was

delivered by Mr. Rizvi Zaheed, Director of Vidullanka PLC, Chairman of Oceanpick Pvt Ltd, Chairman of Sri Lanka Agripreneurs’ Forum, and the former Director of Hayleys PLC and former Managing Director of Hayleys Agriculture Holdings Ltd. Mr. Zaheed expounded approaches that could be followed to add value to conventional export commodities of



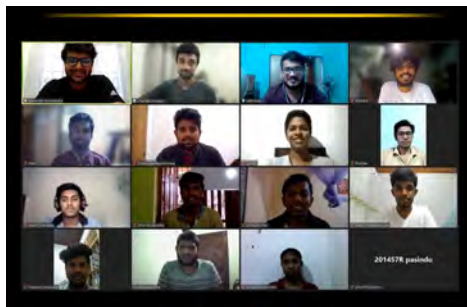
Sri Lanka, and highlighted potential unexplored markets that could be dominated by the Sri Lankan food industry. The keynote address was followed by a speech titled “Importance of Research - A Perspective from R4U Club” which emphasized the importance of collaboration between the industry and academia to expand conventional boundaries of technology, delivered by Dr. Thilini U. Ariyadasa, Senior Treasurer of the R4U Club and Senior Lecturer of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering.

Thereafter, a fruitful panel discussion and Q&A session on the current state and future perspectives of the Sri Lankan food industry was conducted by the following panel of experts.

1. Prof. Ajith de Alwis – Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa and Senior Professor of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa.
2. Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan - Executive Director, Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre.
3. Mr. Ariyaseela Wickramanayeka - Chairman at Pelwatte Dairy Industries Ltd.
4. Mr. Dilhan C. Fernando – CEO of Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company PLC.
5. Mrs. Nisansala Chandrasekara - Senior Research and Development Manager of Food Cluster at Ceylon Biscuits Ltd.

The webinar received an overwhelming response, and was attended by 280+ participants representing academia, industry stakeholders as well as undergraduate/postgraduate students from the science, technology and engineering faculties of numerous higher education institutes in Sri Lanka.

Media Committee Workshop - Society of Transport and Logistics



The Media Committee Workshop for newly recruited members of the Society of Transport and Logistics was conducted by Mr. Chamika Viranga, Chief Operations Officer at Moraspirit and founder owner of Chamika Viranga Photography, on 25th August 2021. Participants were briefed on the fundamentals of photography, camera settings, and Adobe Light room photo editing.

Introduction to Available E- Resources for TLM Undergraduates



The inaugural session of the Society of Transport and Logistics’ Software Workshop Series was held on 14th July 2021 virtually. The session was conducted by Prof. Asoka Perera, Head of the Department of Transport, and Logistics Management. The objective of this workshop was broadening the understanding about the accessible E-Resources to TLM undergraduates. Prof. Asoka Perera briefed the participants on Library-related resources, Science Direct, Open-source software and available hardware.

Appointments & Promotions

A New Generation of Medical Professionals

Senior Professor Ranil Fernando appointed as the Founder Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa

[From front page]



Senior Prof. Ranil Fernando was appointed as the first Dean of the Faculty of Medicine,

the University of Moratuwa. Prior to being appointed as the Dean, he served as a Senior Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Kelaniya and as an Hon. Consultant Surgeon in the North Colombo Teaching Hospital. He has 29 years of experience in medical education, having worked in the Faculties of Medicine in Ruhuna and Kelaniya. Senior Prof. Ranil Fernando who is an alumnus of the University of Colombo, obtained his MBBS degree from the University of Colombo in 1981, and obtained his postgraduate qualifications from the United Kingdom & Sri Lanka. He has delivered 05 orations and 03 memorial lectures and more than 80 invited lectures and is a recipient of 06 international and 12 local-national research awards. He serves

as a member in the editorial boards of the World Journal of Endocrine Surgery, the Ceylon Medical Journal and Journal of Surgery: Open Access. His journal publications include 16 international publications and 25 national publications and 10 local publications. He has co-authored and contributed to 06 local and international books and his contributions

to surgery and medical education are widely acknowledged.

Prof. Ranil Fernando has identified the importance of developing learning outcomes, skills and attitudes as a triumvirate for future medical practitioners. His vision is to provide a world class medical education that is

innovative, patient oriented, evidence based and futuristic to produce medical graduates who are competent, conscientious, compassionate, caring and inquisitive and to make the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa the most globally recognized center of excellence in professional health care education in South Asia.

The University of Moratuwa presents the newest addition to Medical Schools in Sri Lanka



With the humble yet ambitious vision of enhancing the quality of medical education in Sri Lanka, the University of

Moratuwa introduces its very own Faculty of Medicine. Being the 13th Medical Faculty and the newest addition to the arena of

medical education in the country, The Faculty aspires to be one of the best medical schools in Asia.

UOM Alumni

Dr. Priyantha Wijayatunga Appointed Head of the Energy Division of the Asian Development Bank



Dr. Priyantha Dhammika Wijayatunga, former Senior Professor of the Department

of Electrical Engineering has been promoted to the post of Head of Energy Division of the Asian Development Bank. Dr. Wijayatunga was also the founding Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa and the inaugural Director General of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka. He was serving as a senior professor in the department until he was placed in the Philippines as an Energy Specialist for the Asian Development Bank. The department congratulates Dr. Priyantha Wijayatunga and wishes him all the best in his future endeavours.

Society & Community Responsive Activities

NBQSA Awareness Session

An introductory session prior to the NBQSA 2021 – The National ICT Awards organized by INTECS was held on 24th June 2021 via Zoom platform. The session was successfully carried out by courtesy of a panel of members from NBQSA: Mr. KV Kuganathan, the Chairman of BCS (British Computer Society) - Sri Lanka Section, Mr. Vajeendra S. Kandegamage, Hon. Secretary of BCS Sri Lanka Section, Ruwan Amarasekara, the Former Chairman of BCS Sri Lanka Section, Mr. Geethapriya Tillakaratne, the Chief Judge of the NBQSA 2021, Shanaka Rajapakse, the Chairman of the NBQSA 2021, and Dr. Lasith Gunawardena, the Deputy Chairman of the NBQSA 2021.

The panel of resource persons emphasized the importance and the opportunities available for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, through the competition. The session was successfully organized under the patronage of Dr. Supunmali Ahangama, Senior Treasurer of INTECS and Dr. Lochandaka Ranathunga, Senior Advisor of INTECS and the participation of over 100 students representing all the batches of the faculty.

{S}Tackle – Stack Overflow Awareness Session

{S}Tackle: The Stack Overflow Awareness Session series was launched by INTECS, successfully organizing the initial session on 24th June 2021 via Zoom. The guest speaker for the session was a former student of the Faculty of Information Technology from batch 15, Mr. Nishan Chathuranga, currently a Software Engineer at 99X Technology (Pvt) Ltd.

Mr. Chathuranga delivered the introductory presentation on how Stack Overflow which is the world's largest question and answer sharing platform for professional and enthusiast programmers, can be used to refine the programming skills of young developers. The session series was initiated as a support session for students from batch 19 of the Faculty to facilitate their software projects at level 02. There was significant participation in the session from students representing batch 17, batch 18, and especially from batch 19. The session successfully concluded under the guidance of Dr. Supunmali Ahangama, Senior Treasurer of INTECS and Dr. Lochandaka Ranathunga, Senior Advisor of INTECS.

INTECS Tech Session Series

AResuming the INTECS TechTalk series again, an online mobile development workshop was successfully held on 3rd of June 2021 via Zoom in the presence of Mr. Buddhika Prasad Gunathilake (Senior Tech Lead at Orange HRM), Mr. Yasanka Raviran Jayewardene (Associate Tech Lead at Orange HRM), Mr. Yasiru Nilan (Senior Software Engineer at Orange HRM), and Mr. Lahiru Sudesh (Associate Software Engineer at Orange HRM). The session was aimed at sharpening the mobile development skills of the students of IT faculty using React Native, a popular mobile application development framework. The

session covered many practical aspects of the React Native App Development: architecture, build of the code base, and best practices. Student participation in the session was excellent with over 150 participants from all the batches of the faculty.

The next TechTalk, entitled “Resume Building and Industry Expectations” was successfully held on 01st of July 2021 via Zoom. Ms. Dinuka Tharangi Jayaweera, Business Analyst of Sysco LABS participated in the session as the guest speaker. The session was based on introducing trending strategies and important aspects in relation to industry prospects to consider in the preparation of CVs when applying for Internships and Job opportunities. The INTECS TechTalk session on the topic “Who is a Business Analyst” was held on 1st of August 2021 via

Zoom. Ms. Agra Gamage, an alumna from batch 13 of the Faculty of Information Technology, and a Business Analyst at CodeGen International, addressed the session as the guest speaker. Ms. Gamage revealed many peculiar facts about the role and the involvement of a Business Analyst in the software development cycle and the operations of a firm. It was an inspiring and motivational session for students who are interested in a career in the field of Business Analysis.

Turning yet another successful chapter in the INTECS calendar, the INTECS Tech Talk session on the topic “WHO IS A QA ENGINEER?” took place on 28th of August 2021 via Zoom. Ms. Gayathri Gamage, an alumna of the Faculty of IT, University of Moratuwa and the QA Lead at CodeGen International, addressed the session as the guest speaker.

Felicitatation Ceremony

Felicitatation Ceremony for the Late Prof. Ranjit Perera



A ceremony was organized by the Faculty of Engineering to commemorate the retirement and appreciate the invaluable service by late Emeritus Professor of the Department of Electrical Engineering; Prof. Ranjit Perera who retired from service on 30th September 2020. The event was held on 01st April 2021 in the presence of the Dean, Faculty of Engineering; Professor Nalin Wickramarachchi and Faculty Board Members.

Professor HY Ranjit Perera, Emeritus Professor in Electrical Engineering, obtained his first Degree from the University of Moratuwa and postgraduate degrees from the prestigious Rheinisch Westfaelische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) Aachen in Germany. After graduating in 1978, he joined the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) as an Electrical Engineer. After a year and a half spell at the CEB he returned to the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa as an Assistant Lecturer.

Having concluded his doctoral studies in Germany with high accolades he returned to the department as a Senior Lecturer and was promoted to Professor and Senior Professor positions in 2004 and 2012 respectively. He was appointed Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering from April 2004 to April 2008.

Prof. Ranjit Perera served the Sri Lankan power and energy industry and the higher education sector in many capacities. He served as the Director General/CEO of the Public Utilities Commission, Sri Lanka (PUCSL) for two years from April 2008. Prof. Ranjit Perera was also the founder Dean at the Faculty of Engineering of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. He also served as the Chairman, Arthur C Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies (ACCIMT) from October 2013 to February 2015.

He was an award winning researcher having over 30 local and international publications to his credit. His research interests span over power system reliability analysis, renewable energy development and performance evaluation & modelling of communication systems. He is a chartered Engineer and a corporate member of the IESL. The department wishes to extend their deepest sympathies to Prof. Perera's family while commemorating his invaluable service to the department.

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