



## FRANCE HONOURS TWO EMINENT SRI LANKAN PROFESSORS



Mr. Jean-Marine Schuh, Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, bestowed the honorary distinction of Palmes académiques (Order of the Academic Palms) to Prof. Sarath Amunugama, Emeritus Professor, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, and Prof. Rahula Attalage, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor and Senior Professor at the University of Moratuwa. The ceremony was held at the Residence of France, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018, in the presence of Mrs. Hélène Conway-Mouret,

member of the French Senate, on an official visit to Sri Lanka.

The Order of the Academic Palms distinction was instituted by Napoleon the First in 1808 to honour valuable members of the educational community, whether teachers or not, who had either eminently served French education system, or had actively contributed to the promotion of French culture and language in the world. Through his notoriety in the academic field and through his great involvement in the Alliance Française de Kotte in Colombo, Pr. Amunugama has widely contributed to the development of French language learning and to the promotion of French culture in Sri Lanka.

Prof. Rahula Attalage holds a PhD in energy engineering from one of the best and most famous French engineering schools, the Ecole des Mines de Paris. As a recognized intellectual and scientist, Prof. Attalage is one of the main partners of the Embassy of France in the field of academic exchanges.

### Inside

**Page 2**  
 Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

**Page 3**  
 Industry Collaboration

**Page 5**  
 Guest Lectures

**Page 6**  
 Conference and Symposium

**Page 8**  
 Foreign Visits  
 Student Achievements

**Page 9**  
 Staff Achievements

**Page 11**  
 Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

**Page 12**  
 Appointments & Promotions

**Page 13**  
 Cultural Events

**Page 14**  
 Community Outreach  
 Society and Community Responsive Activities

**Page 15**  
 Extra Curricular Activities  
 Sports

**Page 16**  
 Future Events



**Emerald BEPAM  
 Best Paper Award**



**CIOB Best Paper  
 Award**



**Best Undergraduate  
 Research**



**DIMORA P2**

## 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Business Research –ICBR 2018



The inaugural ICBR conference organized by the Business Research Unit of Faculty of Business was held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at CSE seminar hall. The event was graced by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. PKS Mahanama. Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri, Director - Postgraduate Institute of Management delivered the key note speech and Prof. Malik Ranasinghe chaired the conference. Academic staff of the Faculty of Business, scholars and invitees participated in this conference. Specifically, Business Research Unit is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge in all areas of business. As one of the prime activities in the annual calendar, ICBR will be held in June every year starting from 2018 as mentioned by Prof. Vathsala Wickramasinghe, Director- Business Research Unit.

## Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations



### **Paper Presentation at IEEE ICRA 2018**

A research paper titled “Enhancing Overall Object Placement by Understanding Uncertain Spatial and Qualitative Distance Information in User Commands” was presented at the 2018 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) held from May 21-25 in Brisbane, Australia, by Sachi Edirisinghe, a postgraduate research student in the Department of Electrical Engineering. The manuscript was written by Sachi Edirisinghe, Viraj Muthugala and Chapa Sirithunge under the supervision of Dr. Buddhika Jayasekara. The authors are from the Intelligent Service Robotics Group- Department of Electrical Engineering and they are working on the development of Moratuwa Intelligent Robot (MIRob), an intelligent service robot for domestic environments.

The IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) is the premiere conference in robotics and automation field and is the flagship conference of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society. It has the highest H-index in the robotics subject

category according to Google Scholar Metrics. The research was funded by a Senate Research Capital Grant (SRC/CAP/2017/03) of University of Moratuwa.

### **The Best Paper Award at PATW 2018**

The research paper- “Reactive Power Control for Regulation of Network Voltage with Integrated Wind Farms” co-authored by Dr Upuli Jayatunga won the Best Technical paper award at the ‘Present Around the World 2018’, organized by IET Young Professionals’ Section, Sri Lanka. Reactive Power Control for Regulation of Network Voltage with Integrated Wind Farms was a final year undergraduate project of 2013 batch conducted by P.C.D. Dharmabandu, R.W.P. Thiliniika, B.A.J. Pushpakumara and G.D. Kanchana. The project was supervised by Dr. Upuli Jayatunga of the department and Dr. Tilak Siyambalapitiya and Dr. Amila Wickramasinghe of Resource Management Associates (Pvt) Limited.

### **The Best Paper Award at MERCon 2018**

The research paper “Modelling Transfer Function of Power Transformers Using Sweep Frequency Response Analysis” authored by KLIMPB Jayarathna, WEPS Ediriweera, R Samarasinghe and JR Lucas of the Department of Electrical Engineering was awarded the best paper award of “Power Systems, Electrical Machines and High Voltage Track” at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Moratuwa Engineering Research Conference (MERCon) 2018 held in May – June 2018 at the University of Moratuwa. “Modelling Transfer Function of Power Transformers Using Sweep Frequency Response Analysis” is a product of an MSc research project conducted by Mr. Pramod Jayarathna, supervised by Dr. Rasara Samarasinghe and Prof. Rohan Lucas of the department, funded by the Senate Research Grant (SRC/LT/2017/26) of University of Moratuwa.

### **IEEE IAS (Industry Applications Society) Outstanding Member and Chapter Awards 2018**

IEEE IAS SB (Student Branch) Chapter of University of Moratuwa was awarded the Most Outstanding Student Branch Chapter for the year 2018, among 160 IAS chapters across the globe. Further, IAS UOM SB chapter obtained six more awards in the IEEE IAS Outstanding Member and Chapter Awards 2018 as listed below.

1. Outstanding Chapter Project Organizer – Dr (Mrs). Upuli Jayatunga (Advisor , IAS UOM SB Chapter)
2. Second place - Most happening chapter (in order to recognize the projects carried out by the UOM SB chapter)
3. First place - IAS CMD Myron Zucker Design Competition Team Category – EHAD Shanaka Dilan Premarathna, KAP Chinthiya, RR Dharmadasa and PHDAN Wijesinghe; Department of Electrical Engineering
4. Third place- IAS CMD Myron Zucker Design Competition Individual Category - Tharindu Suraj , Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering



5. Qualified for the final round of the IAS CMD Student Robotics Demonstration Competition. - KRB Wickremasinghe, RJW Samith Ashan, HAHI Perera, WLG Dilshan and MI Jayawardana; Department of Electronics and Telecommunication engineering .
6. Fourth place - IAS CMD Humanitarian Contest (for a dengue prevention drone) - Sominda Mahanthumulla Gamage from Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering and Govindu Lokugamage from the Department of Mechanical Engineering of University of Moratuwa

## Industry Collaboration

### Collaboration with Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 between the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia (RMIT) and the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka (UOM) which would bring the two Institutions closer together and help raise awareness of each University's excellence and high standards, in Australia and Sri Lanka. The benefits arising from this Link between the RMIT and the UOM would include collaborative research proposals and activities; exchange of faculty and staff members; opportunities for PhD candidates to visit and study at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology with the waiving of tuition fees and a possible living allowance for a part of their study period, etc.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Professor Andrew MacIntyre, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global Development and Vice-President of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia and Prof. K Kapila CK Perera, Vice Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa. It is expected that the first joint PhD student of UoM and RMIT will commence studies this year, who may be followed by up to 3 other joint PhD students shortly.

### University of Moratuwa to Collaborate with Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT)



The Beijing Institute of Technology, a top-ranked Chinese university which boasts of a student population of over 28,200 students, of which over 2,200 are International Students, has entered into a collaboration with the University of Moratuwa, to benefit its undergraduate, masters and PhD students, faculty members and researchers. A delegation from BIT headed by Prof. Mei Hong, Vice President, BIT met the Acting Vice Chancellor UoM, Prof. PKS Mahanama on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The two Universities decided to enable collaboration and provide opportunities for

- Exchange of faculty members and researchers
- Exchange of students
- Exchange of information and academic resources that are of mutual interest and
- Activities such as collaborative research, joint symposia and exchange lectures.

BIT is agreeable to provide Scholarships for a minimum of 3 successful, nominated candidates every year which could be increased up to 5 – 10. This collaboration will be a great opportunity for UOM's students and faculty members; and the Chinese University looks forward to helping successful candidates.



## Collaboration between University of Moratuwa and Shanghai University of Electric Power



A delegation from the Shanghai University of Electric Power (SUEP) headed by its Vice President, Prof. WENG Peifen visited the University of Moratuwa on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and met the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Director International Relations, Dean Engineering and Heads of the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering and held discussions which will lead to a future collaboration between the two Institutions. The Shanghai University of Electric Power is one of the three top ranking Electrical Universities in China, which is responsible for providing 50% of the electrical engineering to South China, now developing renewable energy; and has opened its doors for international students and faculty members of UOM to participate in programmes of studies, research, etc., on an exchange

and/or scholarship basis, with possible funding from the Chinese Central Government. The SUEP boasts of a very good student/faculty ratio with 12000 students and 1,200 staff members and has three campuses in Shanghai, including their new and modern Lingang smart grid campus.

The two Universities decided to enable collaboration and provide opportunities for :-

- (a) The exchange of faculty personnel to promote cooperation in research and teaching
- (b) The exchange of students from the two sides
- (c) The organization of conferences, seminars, workshops and activities of mutual interests
- (d) Study of the feasibility of joint program

In addition to the above, the road is being paved for the possibility of UOM's Technical Officers working in Energy to pay short visits to SUEP and get an exposure to the energy labs in the Chinese University. Furthermore, the possibility of UOM Undergraduates doing internships in China was discussed. A highlight of the visit of the SUEP delegation was an invitation extended to UOM's Vice Chancellor to attend the Council Meeting of ADEPT – the Academy for Development of Electrical Power Technology. This collaboration will be a great opportunity for UOM's students and faculty members.

## Strengthening Multi-Agency Collaboration for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sri Lanka



The MOBILISE (Multi-agency Collaboration Platform for Building Resilient Communities) project funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund in the UK, aims on developing a digital infrastructure to reduce the impact of natural disasters on communities. The project has selected the pilot case study of flood prone area in Kaduwela to demonstrate the feasibility of a multi-agency shared platform in Sri Lanka. In order to bring together relevant stakeholders responsible for disaster management, a Director Generals' Dinner Reception and Networking Event was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, followed by a Director Generals' Round Table Conference on 21<sup>st</sup> June at Mount Lavinia Hotel.

The "MOBILISE Team"

attended a meeting with the Vice Chancellor of University of Moratuwa on 25<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the potential of establishing disaster management research centre within the University of Moratuwa. The research team from University of Moratuwa includes Dr. (Mrs.) Udayangani Kulatunga from Department of Building Economics, Dr Chandana Siriwardana from Department of Civil Engineering and two research assistants from the respective departments. This project is conducted under the leadership of Prof. Terrance Fernando, Director of the THINKlab, University of Salford, UK.





## Donation of a Bonding machine



YMT Lanka Manufacturing (PVT) Ltd headed by Mr. Dilhan Perera, CEO, donated a Bonding machine worth US\$ 8700 to the Department of Textiles and clothing Technology at a ceremony. This donation is a result of Mrs. Vijitha Rathnayake's request to the industry to support the Department. With this addition the Department is now in a position to conduct research and teach students about the latest trends in garment manufacturing without using sewing threads. Mr. C Ranasinghe of 3M Lanka (Pvt) Ltd who attended the function undertook to supply the bonding adhesive to the Department. Mr. Thushara Mudalige, GM (Technical) of Ayathi, MAS Holding Ltd too attended the event.



## Guest Lectures

### EEsoc Guest Lecture - Recent Developments in Power Grid Transformations by Dr. Lasantha Meegahapola

Dr. Lasantha Meegahapola, currently a Senior Lecturer in the Electrical & Biomedical Engineering, School of Engineering, RMIT University, Melbourne, paid a courtesy visit to the Department recently. During the visit, he delivered a guest lecture on "Recent Developments in Power Grid Transformations" at the Electrical Engineering Seminar Room which was organized by the Electrical Engineering Society. The guest lecture was attended by the students and the academic staff.

### Special guest lecture, Month of June



Under the special guest lecture series organized by the Department of Transport and Logistics Management, the guest lecture of the month of June was done by Mr. Sidantha John Don Tantirimudalige, Head of Supply Chain Philip Morris International, Philippines on 28<sup>th</sup> of June from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon at the TLM seminar room. This special guest lecture was conducted on the topic, How to Excel in Your Career : Uncovering Asian Opportunities. Mr. Tantirimudalige discussed about his over 15 years experiences on leadership in P&L management, business development, supply chain management, procurement & manufacturing operations in emerging South-East Asia and Europe.

### Special guest lecture, Month of May

TLM Special Guest Lecture of the month of May was conducted by the invited guest Dr Rohan Wickramasuriya, Research Fellow in Geomatics Engineering at the SMART Infrastructure Facility, University of Wollongong on 23<sup>rd</sup> of May from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm at the MBA Classroom of TLM Building. The lecture was held on the topic of Deep learning: Fundamentals and Practice.



## The 7<sup>th</sup> World Construction Symposium 2018



The 7<sup>th</sup> World Construction Symposium 2018 on ***“Built Asset Sustainability: Rethinking Design, Construction and Operations”*** was successfully held from 29<sup>th</sup> June and 01<sup>st</sup> July 2018 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) and Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) of the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa jointly organised the Symposium. The Associate Partners of the Symposium were Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom, Centre for Innovation in Construction and Infrastructure Development (CICID), The University of Hong Kong, Indian

Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), Western Sydney University, Australia, East Carolina University, USA, CIB-W122: Public Private Partnerships, and Colombo School of Construction Technology, Sri Lanka (CSCT). The symposium aimed at providing a forum for exchanging ideas between construction researchers in the areas of sustainability with a view to fostering a better link between industry and academia.

The Chief Guest of the event was Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade, and the guest of honour was Prof. KKCK Perera, Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa. Prof. Peter McDermott, Professor of Construction Management in the School of the Built Environment, at the University of Salford, was the keynote speaker for this event. Papers were presented in the Symposium by both local and international scholars pertaining to the main theme. Many researchers, industry practitioners and students from Sri Lanka, India, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Singapore, China, Oman, Nigeria and United Arab Emirates took part in this symposium sharing ideas in the area of sustainability in built environment. The diversity of participants stimulated a rich debate of the agenda items.

The 7<sup>th</sup> World Construction Symposium 2018 can be seen as another highly successful event co-organized by Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) of the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, with a good participation by both local and international academics and industry experts presenting papers addressing a range of sustainability issues within the construction industry.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> International conference on Anaerobic Digestion Technology 2018



Professor P.G. Rathnasiri from Department of Chemical and Process Engineering and his fulltime M.sc research student Mr. Kasun Samarasiri attended 2nd International conference on Anaerobic Digestion Technology held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 4-7 June 2018. The title of paper presented was effect of enzymatic hydrolysis pretreatment on batch anaerobic digestion of wastewater generated in desiccated coconut processing plants.



## Moratuwa Engineering Research Conference (MERCon) 2018



4<sup>th</sup> Moratuwa Engineering Research Conference (MERCon 2018), organized by the Engineering Research Unit (ERU), was held on May 30-June 1, 2018 at the Civil Engineering Complex. MERCon 2018 received 196 submissions from authors across 16 countries. After the peer-review process, 107 papers were accepted for the presentation. All accepted and presented papers of MERCon 2018 are submitted for publication to the IEEE Xplore. The conference included 18 technical tracks, ERU Symposium, and eight full-day and half-day workshops covering drivers aspects of engineering. Over 200 authors and invitees participated in the conference while workshops had over 80 participants from the industry and academia. Keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. Kazuo Kiguchi, Kyushu University, Japan; Prof. Sudharman K. Jayaweera, University of New Mexico, USA; Dr. Priyantha Wijayatunga, Asian Development Bank, Philippines; and Dr. Sandun Perera, University of Michigan, USA.



MERCon 2018 was jointly organized by the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka; ERU; and IEEE student branch of University of Moratuwa. It is co-sponsored by the IEEE, IEEE Sri Lanka Section, Sri Lanka Section chapter of IEEE Power and Energy Society, and Sri Lanka Section chapter of IEEE Robotics and Automation Society. It was financially sponsored by the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Graduate Studies, National Science Foundation, and Würth Elektronik, India. With the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, MERCon was able to present an even greater and stronger program, which is a reflection of a thriving research community with hard-working members. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of MERCon will be held on June 12-14, 2019 and details are available at <http://mercon.mrt.ac.lk/>.



## Prof. Gopura Delivered a Talk in ICRA2018



Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Prof Ruwan Gopura delivered an invited talk titled “Development of Post-conflict Sri Lanka: Role of Humanitarian Technology” in the Sustainable Humanitarian Technologies Forum of the International Conference on Robotics and Automation 2018 (ICRA2018) May 21-May 25, 2018 at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia. He further participated in IEEE Robotics and Automation Society chapter chair workshop in the same conference and also visited Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to discuss future collaboration activities.



## Robotics Meetup at Virtusa Auditorium



Assistive Robotics: the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the robotics meetup which was held on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2018, 05:30 at the Virtusa Auditorium, Colombo. Two brainstorming presentations were held on, “Control of Human Assist Robot Based on Integrated Information” by Prof. Kazuo Kiguchi (Kyushu University, Japan) and “Brain Machine Interfaces for Assistive Robots” by our own Dr. Thilina Lalitharatne. It was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Palitha Dassanayake where Prof. Kazuo Kiguchi, Dr. Thilina Lalitharatne and Dr. Achala Pallegedara from University of Peradeniya shared their knowledge.

## Foreign Visits

### Delegates from Nagoka University of Technology visited the Department of Computational Mathematics



Prof. Shusaku Nomura and Associate Prof. Yuta Nishiyama from the Department of Information and Management Systems Engineering, Nagaoka University of Technology, Japan visited the Department of Computational Mathematics on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018. During their visit, they carried out a fruitful discussion with the academic staff of the Department of Computational Mathematics regarding the possible research collaborations between two departments. Further, discussion focused on the possibility of introducing Staff and Student Exchange programmes between the two institutes.

## Student Achievements

### Best Undergraduate Research [From front page]

The best undergraduate research presentations of 13 batch of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June at the Department Seminar room starting at 8.30 am. The Panel of Judges were Dr T L Gunaruwan (Chairman of the judge panel/Senior Lecturer, UOC), Dr Indika Sigera, Dr T Sivakumar and Eng. S. Bentotage. Ms. Keshala Wickrama Gunaratne won the award for the best undergraduate research.

### Student Participation at Green Inventor Competition

Udari Mohotti and Sudhara Jayakody, Level four students from the field of Product Design, Department of Integrated Design secured the 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> places respectively in the Green Inventor Competition organized by Sampath Bank, with collaboration of Sri Lanka Inventors Commission. They received trophies and certificates of recognition by the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission for their eco-friendly inventions. The awarding ceremony was held at Nawaloka Hospitals on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.





## **“DI-MORA P2”; the Formula Student Race Car**

[From front page]

Department of Mechanical Engineering, together with DIMO, proudly unveils “DI-MORA P2”; the formula student race car built by the students of mechanical engineering to participate in the world’s biggest student motorsport competition, Formula Student 2018 on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018, at the DIMO 800 Mercedes-Benz Centre, Colombo.



## **Staff Achievements**

### **Consultant to the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment**



Senior Professor PGR Dharmaratne of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering has been appointed as a consultant to the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment with effect from June 2018. He will oversee the activities related to “mineral resources” handled by the Geological Survey & Mines Bureau, National Gem & Jewellery Authority and Central Environmental Authority, under the directions of Minister to the Mahaweli Development & Environment and the President, HE. Maithreepala Sirisena. Further, he shall share his expertise on mineral resources with the Chairpersons, Director Generals and the top management of the above institutions, as and when necessary. This assignment is for a period of one year, and the position is entitled to the facilities of an Additional Secretary to the ministry.

### **A New Appointment for Head of DiD from the Ministry of Higher Education and Cultural Affairs**



Archt. Sithumini Ratnamalala, Head of the Department of Integrated Design has been appointed as a member of the State Advisory Council for Photography for a period of three years from 14-06-2018. This appointment is under the Ministry of Higher Education and Cultural Affairs.

## Book Publication



Prof. TSG Peiris, Professor in Applied Statistics, Department of Mathematics published a handbook titled, “Multivariate Data Analysis using SPSS”. Multivariate statistics is an important branch of statistics. Not only statisticians, many other researchers use multivariate statistics for their data analyses. This handbook has focused on analyzing multivariate data using SPSS, giving interpretation of the SPSS output so that many stakeholders of multivariate analysis can use SPSS to analyze their data and interpret the outputs without much knowledge of theoretical aspects. This book is recommended for the engineering students who do Linear Models and Multivariate Analysis and also for many post-graduate courses, in particularly MSc. Degree in Business Statistics.

## Visit to Department of Statistics, National Chengchi University, Taiwan by Prof. TSG Peiris



Based on the contribution in the field of Data Mining Techniques in Multivariate Statistics and Regression Modelling, Prof. TSG Peiris, Professor in Applied Statistics has been invited as a Visiting Professor to the Department of Statistics, National Chengchi University, Taiwan during 20-27 May, 2018. During the visit several presentations were delivered by him for the benefit of the academic staff and students in the department.

## Department of Building Economics thrives at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Construction Symposium 2018

The best papers and highly commended papers of the symposium were acknowledged by Built Environment Project and Asset Management (BEPAM), a journal published by Emerald Group Publishing, and the Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Construction Symposium 2018. Members of the academic staff of the Department of Building Economics thrived at the event winning two awards.

### **Emerald BEPAM Best Paper Award**

**[From front page]**

Dr. (Mrs.) Thanuja Ramachandra, a Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Building Economics, and Ms. Devindi Geekiyanage, a Lecturer attached to the same Department, won the Emerald BEPAM Best Paper Award for their joint paper titled “Significant Factors influencing Operational and Maintenance (O & M) Costs of Commercial Buildings” at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Construction Symposium 2018.

### **CIOB Best Paper Award**

**[From front page]**

Dr. (Ms.) Sachie Gunathilake, a Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Building Economics and Ms. Fasma Fasly, a Research Assistant of the same Department, won the CIOB Best Paper Award for the paper titled “Factors Affecting the Successful Adoption and Implementation of Energy Retrofits in Existing Hotel Buildings”, at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Construction Symposium 2018.



## Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

### Workshop on 'Perspectives on Housing; Challenges and Opportunities in Colombo'



The Department of Town and Country Planning (TCP) of the University of Moratuwa in collaboration with the Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL), UK conducted a workshop on the theme of 'Perspectives on housing: Challenges and Opportunities in Colombo' on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the department auditorium.



The workshop was attended by the undergraduate students of the Dept. of TCP, postgraduate students from the UCL, academics, researchers and practitioners from Sevenatha Urban resource Centre, UN-Habitat and Urban Settlement Development Authority (USDA). The workshop was comprised of presentations, group discussions and a panel discussion. Key speakers of the workshop were Dr. Rangajeewa Ratnayake (UOM), Dr. Nishara Fernando (UOC), Ms. Ruth McLeod (DPU), Ms. Udani Perera (USDA) and Speakers, panelists and attendees and planning practitioners provided thought-provoking perspectives on the problems that collectively confront us on housing in the city of Colombo and insight into practical and more just recommendations for the housing sector. Through the presentations and

interactive break-out and discussion groups, many ideas emerged as potential areas that planners could explore to improve housing policies in relation to low income and middle class.

### Participation in the AISEX Exhibition – BDes. in FD & PD, Department of Textile & Clothing Technology



Hansadi Munasinghe, Harsha Moragollegedara, Nimesha Amaratunga, Lakni Edirisooriya, Shehan Enos, Bhagya Gunawardena, Chathuri Sugandika, Bhagya Premarathne, Gayani Ranasinghe, Omali Kulatunga, Daneera Senaratne, Tharani Subasinghe, Diwani Warnakulasooriya, Thamali Galgamuwa, Lakni Ariyaratne, the final year students of B.Design in Fashion Design & Product Development Degree course participated in the AISEX Exhibition and Conference held on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial International Exhibition Centre, Colombo. Selected final year fashion collections, the design development work and experimental portfolios of the graduating students were displayed at the Exhibition.



# Appointments & Promotions

## Head of the Departments

### Department of Computational Mathematics



**Dr. (Ms.) GU Ganegoda** has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Computational Mathematics from 07.05.2018 to 06.05.2021.

### Department of Transport & Logistics



**Prof. KAS Kumarage** has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Transport & Logistics Management from 01.05.2018 to 30.04.2021.

### Department of Mathematics



**Mr. UA Senavirathne** has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Mathematics from 01.06.2018 to 31.05.2021.

### Department of Interdisciplinary Studies



**Ms. WASN Wijethunga** has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies from 09.05.2018 to 08.05.2021.

## PhD Completion

### Completion of PhD by Viraj Muthugala



Department of Electrical Engineering congratulates, **Dr. Viraj Muthugala**, for successful completion of the PhD degree under the supervision of Dr. Buddhika Jayasekara. This is the first

PhD of the intelligent service robotics group, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa. It is commendable that he has achieved more than typical international level of research outcome in Robotics field with an exceptional list of publications including flagship conferences like IEEE ICRA and IROS

### First ever PhD graduation from the Department of Mechanical Engineering



The department would like to congratulate **Dr. Kanishka Madusanka**, for successful completion of his PhD

degree under the supervision of Prof. Ruwan Gopura, Dr. Ranjith Amarasinghe, and Prof. George Mann. This is the first-ever PhD graduation from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

The department wishes all the best for his career. Dr. Kanishka Madusanka is currently working as a lecturer at the department of Mechanical Engineering.

## New Appointments

**Mr. TA Dodangoda** has been appointed to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade I in the Division of Industrial Training, Faculty of Engineering with effect from 01.05.2018.

**Ms. V Vijayarajah** has been appointed to the post of Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology with effect from 01.06.2018.

**Dr. ND Wanasekara** has been appointed to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology with effect from 01.06.2018.





**Ms. TLM Meetiyagoda** has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Town & Country Planning with effect from 02.10.2017.



**Mr. NADKA Jayawardana** has been promoted to the post of Programmer cum Systems Analyst Grade I in the Department of Mechanical Engineering with effect from 01.01.2017.

**Dr. (Ms.) SBA Cooray** has been promoted to the grade of Senior Lecturer Grade I in the Department of Architecture with effect from 09.06.2016



**Dr. ADUS Amarasinghe**, Senior Lecturer Grade I has been promoted to the post of Professor in Chemical & Process Engineering in the Department of Chemical & Process Engineering (on merit) with effect from 28.11.2016.



**Dr. (Ms.) CC Abenayake** has been confirmed in the post of Lecturer (Probationary) with effect from 02.10.2012 and promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II with effect from 31.12.2017.

## Cultural Events

### Wasath Hiru Mangalyaya



Bringing peace and harmony to rekindle the relationships among students, academics and other faculties, the students of Faculty of Business organized their very first new year celebration: "Wasath Hiru Mangalyaya" at Old Gym premises on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Giving prominence to both Sinhalese and Tamil culture, the event was filled with customs and traditional games. All academics, non-academic staff, students of the Faculty of Business and other faculties participated in this event.





## Community Outreach

### “Sneha 2018/2019”



selected community for the project was H/Illukmulla Kanishta Vidyalaya, Tangalle, which is a school that have a long history and showing outstanding performance in education as well.

STL distributed donations to the school covering four main categories; Home Science Room, Dancing Room, Agricultural Room and Office. Further, there are 62 students in the school and it was planned to distribute gifts for each and every student of the school (More information on the Donations are included in the annex). All the necessities and equipment for the event were covered by the donations and the help of the Hayleys Advantis Limited, the platinum sponsor of Society of Transport and Logistic for the term 2018/2019.

## Society and Community Responsive Activities

### World Bicycle Day Celebrations in collaboration with University of Colombo



Department of Transport and logistics Management organized a celebration for the “World Bicycle Day 2018” with the collaboration of University of Colombo. This event was held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 from 11:15 AM to 1:15 AM. It consisted with an opening ceremony and a bicycle rally with more than 25 bicycles. The rally started from the university of Moratuwa took a route of approximately 5 kilometers along Molpe, Moratumulla, Rawatawatta, and Katubedda. The rally successfully reached the university of Moratuwa around 1:15 pm. Along with the rally, an e-magazine on bicycles was launched by Society of Transport and Logistics. A successful social media challenge was conducted to bring out the memories and stories related to bicycles and promote the use of bicycles.





## Facilities Management awareness programme for schools



The final year Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics organised a series of programmes to raise the awareness about Facilities Management degree programme, among the school community. The first three programmes were held in the month of June 2018 at Mahinda College, Galle, Jayakodi vidyalaya- Kadawatha, and Maliyadewa College, Kurunegala. The programmes aimed at introducing the degree programme and its focus to the school community.

## Extra Curricular Activities

### A Session on “Qualitative Data Analysis Techniques”

A session on “Qualitative Data Analysis Techniques” was organized by the Faculty of Business on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 from 9am to 4pm for MBA Management of Technology/Entrepreneurship students. Dr. Hemamalie Gunathilaka from University of Sri Jayawardanepura and Dr. Shantha Abeysinghe from Open University contributed as resource persons. The main purpose of this session was to provide a thorough understanding on qualitative research methods with special reference to usage of NVIVO software in qualitative researches.

## Sports

### SYNERGY 2018: SPORTS & GAMES EVENT



The MBA in Management of Technology/Entrepreneurship 2018 batch organized “Synergy 2018: Sports & Games Event” on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at University of Moratuwa grounds from 8.30 am onwards. This event was filled with many entertaining events where six-aside cricket tournament was the main highlight. The MBA 2017 batch won the tournament while academic/non-academic staff emerged the first runners up. The event provided a great opportunity to build rapport among students and academic/non-academic staff.

## EECon 2018

Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa is organizing an international conference, “2018 Electrical Engineering Conference (EECon 2018)” for the second time, which will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo. EECon 2018 is technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Sri Lanka Section, IEEE RAS Sri Lanka Chapter and IEEE PES Sri Lanka Chapter and is financially supported by the University of Moratuwa. All accepted papers will be submitted to IEEE for inclusion in IEEE Xplore Digital Library and conference proceedings will be indexed in Scopus.

EECon 2018 solicits research papers describing significant and innovative research contributions to all fields of electrical engineering. We invite submissions on a wide range of research topics in Electrical Engineering. More details of the conference can be found at the <http://www.eesoc.lk/eecon2018/>.

## Design Code – Sri Lanka Design Week 2018 by the Department of Integrated Design

Design Code – Sri Lanka Design Week 2018 is an event organized by the Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa in collaboration with Design Development Corporation, Leo Burnett, Balmond Studio and Lanka Association of Designers. It is scheduled from the 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at the Arcade Independence and The Sri Lanka Foundation Institute Colombo 7, Sri Lanka. This public event is centered on students, educationists and practicing professional, and designers locally and internationally.

This year, the plan is to make it a National Design event with the intention of promoting several Sri Lankan brands ‘Designed in Sri Lanka’ platform. It will recognize the importance of cultivating design knowledge through contemporary and traditional modes of thought, technology and media, while promoting the integration of different design fields. Visit [www.designcode.lk](http://www.designcode.lk) to learn more on the event.



### ADVISORY BOARD

Professor Rahula Attalage (Chairman)  
Professor KKCK Perera  
Professor Lalith De Silva  
Mr PM Karunarathne  
Mrs Ruvini Kodikara  
Professor (Mrs) Chintha Jayasinghe  
Archd UPP Liyanage  
Dr Chathura De Silva

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Mrs Ruvini Kodikara  
Archd Sithumini Rathnamalala  
Archd A Rajapakse  
Mrs WASN Wijethunga  
Mrs Thushari M Seneviratne  
Dr (Mrs) DA Meedeniya

Editor : Mrs WASN Wijethunga  
[E-mail: [sumudu@uom.lk](mailto:sumudu@uom.lk)]  
Language Editing : Ms KMKSM Bandara  
(Department of Languages)  
Published by : Library  
University of Moratuwa  
Page Layout : Mr BMS Mendis

### NEWS TO BE SENT TO

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



ISSN 2279-2023