



University of Moratuwa

# Bimonthly UOM news

## 2020

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## Congratulations to Senior Professor ND Gunawardena on his Appointment as the Vice-Chancellor

[From front page]



The staff and the students of the University of Moratuwa take great pleasure in extending their sincere congratulations and best wishes to Prof. ND Gunawardena who was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa with effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

Prof. ND Gunawardena who is an alumni of the University of Moratuwa obtained his first degree from the University of Moratuwa in 1986 and obtained his Masters and PhD from the Loughborough University of Technology, the United Kingdom.

Prior to being appointed as the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Gunawardena served in the University as a Senior Professor, the Head of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Dean of the Faculty of Business and held many other administrative positions. He was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University from March 2006 to November 2011.

Prof. Gunawardena holds the membership of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Project Managers, Sri Lanka.

## Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

### Conference Publication at the IESL - YMS Technical E-Conference

A conference publication titled 'Modelling Adsorption Kinetics for Removal of Basic Red 18 Dye from Aqueous Solutions using Magnetic Particles Loaded Tea Waste', authored by Ms. AMP Madhubashani, Ms. KMNS Sewwandi, and Prof. BMW PK Amarasinghe of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering of

University of Moratuwa was presented at the IESL-YMS Technical E-Conference on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

This work focused on the analysis of the effects of various parameters on the adsorption process and the determination of the preferred kinetic models. These

models were based on the equilibrium data obtained from the experimental studies on the possibility of removal of Basic Red 18 (BR18) textile dye from aqueous solutions using MPLTW.

## Academic & Industry Collaboration

### Plans of the Curriculum Development & Industrial Training Outcomes



Department Industry Consultative Board (DICB) Meeting of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering was held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at Codegen Inc, Colombo.

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Nalin Wicramarachchi participated in the meeting and made an immense contribution by clarifying industry



concerns from the faculty level. A significant industry participation and CSE academic staff were present to make the programme successful by discussing the plans of the curriculum development, industrial training outcomes, and the increment of the intake.

A significant number of representatives from the industry and the academic staff of CSE were present to make the programme successful by discussing the plans.

## ADB Funded LECO-UOM Microgrid Project Launched in Partnership with DIMO and DHYBRID



Lanka Electricity Company (LECO) together with the University of Moratuwa (UOM) launched a pioneering pilot project on Microgrid with a grant assistance of \$ 1.8 million from Asian Development Bank (ADB).

DIMO, together with the German specialist DHYBRID, has been selected for the supply

of comprehensive Renewable Energy Microgrid consisting of power generation and storage, a model which can be scaled up for uninterrupted power distribution for customers across the country.

Addressing the event, ADB Country Director for Sri Lanka Dr. Chen said “ADB has been a long-term partner in Sri

Lanka’s energy sector development. Our assistance in the clean energy, includes Sri Lanka’s first large scale 100MW wind park in Mannar, 30MW hydropower station in Moragolla and the solar rooftop credit line. Similarly, ADB has been supporting the strengthening of power evacuation from distributed renewable energy generation both at transmission and primary distribution levels, in addition to its support for both supply side and demand side energy efficiency improvements. ADB is always committed to supporting Sri Lanka’s inclusive energy sector development focusing on clean energy with new and innovative technologies and solutions”.

## Guest Lectures / Talks

### Guest Lecture on

“Developing the Leader within You - Leadership Skills and Team Work”

An online guest lecture titled “Developing the Leader within You - Leadership Skills and Team Work” was delivered to the Level III Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 by Dr. Larry Adams, Dean of Academic Studies, Chief Academic Officer, IDM Campus.

### Guest Lecture on “Time Management and Self-Motivation”

An online guest lecture on “Time Management and Self-Motivation” was delivered to the Level III Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management undergraduates of Department of Building Economics on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 by Dr. Larry Adams, Dean of Academic Studies, Chief Academic Officer, IDM Campus.

### Guest Presentation

delivered by Senior Professor Ajith de Alwis

A special guest presentation for the students of the Faculty of Technology of the University of Sri Jayawardenapura was delivered by Senior Professor Ajith de Alwis on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 at the Faculty of Technology in Pitipana, Homagama.

### Televised interview on Sirasa TV

Senior Professor Ajith de Alwis participated in an interview in the Pathikada (පැතිකඩ) programme on Sirasa TV on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The interview was on plastic regulation in Sri Lanka.

## Katha Baha (Online) with Dr. Deshai Botheju

Dr. Deshai Botheju is an Advisory Consultant in Safety & Sustainability Engineering, a Researcher, an Author and a Senior Chemical engineer. Being an alumnus of the DCPE, he recently joined one of DCPE iconic events, Katha Baha on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to share his experience and especially his insights on safety with regard to the recent maritime accident involving the MT new diamond VLCC.

## Professor Priyan Dias delivered the Deshabandu Vidya Jyothi Eng Dr. ANS Kulasinghe Memorial Lecture

Having known Dr. ANS Kulasinghe, the nonpareil engineer in whose memory the lecture was delivered, Prof. Dias titled his lecture as “Extending some Kulasinghe Innovations”. Prof. Dias was the recipient of the Kulasinghe Award for the best Civil Engineering Graduate of the University of Moratuwa in 1979.

## A discussion on the Future ahead in Freight Forwarding and Shipping



The 4<sup>th</sup> of a series of webinars organized by the Society of Transport and Logistics, University of Moratuwa in collaboration with Hayleys Advantis Ltd, was held successfully on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. Mr. Kingsley Abeywickrama, Director of a subsidiary of Hayleys Advantis Ltd conducted this webinar titled 'The future ahead in freight forwarding and shipping'. Ms. Chethana Thathsarani, a member of the Society of Transport and Logistics was the moderator of this webinar.

## A Discussion on the Employer Expectations of Interns and Students' Internship-Readiness Lecture



Ms. Davina Kern (Head of Group Human Resources at David Pieris Holdings (Pvt) Limited), Mr. Prasaj Pathirana (CEO at David Pieris Logistics (Pvt) Limited), Mr. Imesha Almeida (Divisional Manager HR at David Pieris Logistics (Pvt) Limited) conducted a special guest lecture on “An employer expectation of an intern / and how they need to prepare for their internship and employment” the employer expectations of interns and students’ internship-readiness on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## Academic Programs

### The Inauguration Ceremony of new Intake 2020/2021

M.Sc in Project Management and M.Sc in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution



The Inauguration ceremony of the new Intake of academic year 2020/2021 for M.Sc in Project Management and M.Sc in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution degree programmes, organized by the Department of Building Economics was held on the 04<sup>th</sup> of September 2020,

## A discussion on how 3PL Business is Transforming



Society of Transport and Logistics held its 3<sup>rd</sup> in the series of webinars conducted in collaboration with Hayleys Advantis Ltd., on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2020. The topic of discussion for the day was “How 3PL Business is Transforming”.

The session included presentations by three resource persons: Mr. Sheran Abeyesundere, Director, Advantis 3PL Plus, Mr. Tharanga Seneviratne, Chief Business Officer, Business Unit A, Advantis 3PL Plus, and Mr. Dharshana Wijemanne, Chief Business Officer, Business Unit B, Advantis 3PL Plus. Ms. Vijini Witharana of the Society of Transport and Logistics was the moderator of the event.

## IoT Workshops for SLIoT Challenge 2020

The Computer Science and Engineering Department, University of Moratuwa organized a series of virtual workshops on the “Internet of Things” on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The workshops were part of the SLIoT Challenge 2020 competition which is organized by the CSE Department and Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) in collaboration with Sri Lanka Telecom PLC. This competition is organized to improve the awareness on the Internet of Things among the Sri Lankan community, promote and foster innovation, entrepreneurship and create marketable products for the new economy.

The workshops provided SLIoT 2020 contestants with technical advice on IoT related topics and guidance on how to develop their IoT product idea for a business. A panel of speakers from University of Moratuwa, Entgra.io, SLT and Mobitel contributed their expertise.

## Conferences & Symposium

### International Conference on Business Research (ICBR) 2020



## The Annual Drama Festival - “Purawara Rangamadala 2020”



The annual drama festival -“Purawara Rangamadala” of the Department of Town & Country Planning was held successfully for the ninth consecutive year at the department main auditorium on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 organized by the level one students as a part of the Drama module offered in the BSc. Hons. degree program.

The objective of the event was to enrich

interactions with batch mates, develop students’ appreciation skills and strengthen self-confidence and expressive abilities in presentation. The festival featured five plays: Three Penny Opera, Dead Man’s Cell Phone, Subha saha Yasa, The Jungle and Machinal. For the first-time in the department’s history, plays were performed in all three languages.

International Conference on Business Research (ICBR) 2020, organized by the Business Research Unit (BRU) of the Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, 2020 at the Civil Engineering Auditorium.

The Chief Guest of the event was the Vice Chancellor Prof. Niranjan Gunawardena and the Key Note Speaker was Mr. Dilith Jayaweera, Attorney at Law and the Chairman of Derana and George Steuart Group. The Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. PKS Mahanama, Dean-Faculty of Business Prof. SWSB Dasanayaka and, Director- Business Research Unit Dr. Thesara Jayawardane graced the Head Table.

ICBR 2020 provided an excellent forum for exchanging information and discussion on a wide variety of topics in Business Research and the theme for this year’s conference was “Embracing Change and Transformation through Resilience and Innovation”.

# Student Achievements

## Civil Students won Migara Ratnatunge Trust Award (2019/2020)

[From front page]



HHND Haggalla of 2015 batch of Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, won the Migara Ratnatunge Trust Award (All island 1<sup>st</sup> place - Category A) for the year 2019/2020 which was awarded by the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) for the best trainee civil engineer during Industrial Training.

RMAGB Rathnayake from the same batch won the merit award (Category B) and his civil engineering batch mates S Gajanan and KBSL Madushan received certificates of participation (Category C) which were awarded by the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL).

## Civil Students won the Manamperi Award (Engineering 2020)

HHND Haggalla and RMAGB Rathnayake of 2015 batch of Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa won the Manamperi Award for the year 2020 (All island 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places) which was awarded by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) for the most outstanding undergraduate Engineering Research Project.

## Electrical Engineering Undergraduate Students Received the Best Paper Award at the IESL Young Members' Technical Conference 2020

The paper submitted by the final year project group of Electrical Engineering Department titled "Smart Device for DC Side Fault Detection and Prediction for Solar PV Systems" won the "Eng. Chandrasena Award" for the Best Paper at the IESL Young Member Technical Conference 2020. The project

## Team SiRi of University of Moratuwa Becomes the Champions at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Association of Energy and Power Universities (RAEP) Energy and Electricity Market Business Decision Simulation Competition 2020

[From front page]



The team (Team SiRi) represented by the University of Moratuwa became the champions at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Association of Energy and Power Universities (RAEP) Energy and Electricity Market Business Decision Simulation Competition 2020 organized by the Shanghai University of Electric Power (SUEP), Shanghai, China. The competition was held online this year. The competition had several rounds. Opening ceremony of the competition was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Mudith Witharama and Kalindu Prabash from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Yasod Ginige and Tharindu Wickramasinghe from the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering of Semester 3 represented the winning team in the competition.

The competition started on 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2020 and had several initial rounds to select the teams who are eligible to go to the final rounds of the competition. More than 50 teams from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, China and Sri Lanka competed in the initial rounds. Only 10 teams were selected for the final rounds of the competition, which were held from the 18<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Five teams from UoM participated in the initial rounds and Team SiRi became first and qualified for the final round. Deference presentations by the final teams were held on 29<sup>th</sup> October. This competition was coordinated by Dr. Chandima Pathirana on the advice of Prof. Gihan Dias and Prof. Sisil Kumarawadu.

## Staff Achievements

### Appointment of Professor Ajith de Alwis

Senior Professor Ajith de Alwis has been appointed as a Member of the Committee developing the material flow analysis (MFA) of plastics in Sri Lanka.

## Appointment to the Studying Committee for the Sri Lanka Biotechnology Innovation Park

Senior Professor Ajith de Alwis has been selected as a member of the studying committee appointed by the Ministry of Finance on the establishment of the Sri Lanka Biotechnology Innovation Park. This park will be located on a land of 13.2 acres in Homagama.

## Professor Priyan Dias Recognized Among the Stanford - Elsevier list of the world's top 2% of scientists

[From front page]



An article published in PLOS Biology on 08-10-2020 with authors from Stanford University and Elsevier BV is linked to a publicly available database of 100,000 top-ranked scientists, together with the top 2% of scientists for every

sub-field. Professor Priyan Dias from the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa is among these 15 scientists from Sri Lanka. His inclusion reflects the impact and quality of research conducted throughout his illustrious career which is close to 40 years. He is also the current President of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000918>

## Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

### 361 Training with Ms. Bernadine Jayasinghe

Leading Corporate Trainer | Award Winning TV Personality | Entrepreneur  
International Winning Speaker

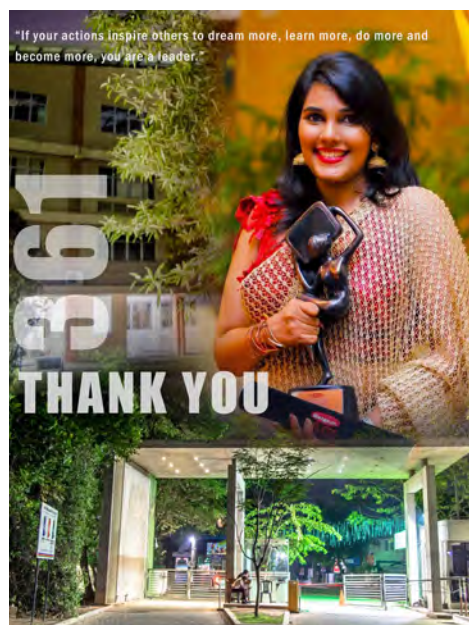
Discover Yourself With  
**BERNADINE JAYASINGHE**  
27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at  
10.30 am via zoom

Best English TV Presenter Award at Rajgam Telecast 2017  
President award for best English TV presenter 2018  
Best English News Anchor Award at Rajgam Telecast 2019  
Honorary Anabhimani award for Media & Training 2017 & 2018

20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10.30 am via Zoom

Essential Communication Skills  
**361 WITH BERNADINE JAYASINGHE**

Ms. Bernadine Jayasinghe, an award-winning media personality, professional



trainer and entrepreneur completed her training sessions for 361 program season 2 in October 2020. 361 was an initiative taken by the Department of Chemical & Process Engineering (DCPE) to enhance the professional skills of final year undergraduates. Ms. Bernadine Jayasinghe conducted sessions to develop communication skills, presentation skills, and interview facing skills of DCPE undergraduates. Majority of the sessions were conducted online due to Covid-19 pandemic. DCPE would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Ms. Bernadine Jayasinghe for her contribution to 361 program.

### Anuradha of UGS Wins the Best Poster Award



The International Poster Presentation Competition (IPPC 2020) organized by the National Young Academy of Bangladesh (NYAB) in association with Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INAYAS), Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) and Thai Young Scientists Academy (TYSA) was held in September 2020. 243 Undergraduates and graduates from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand submitted posters for the competition under four categories: Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Applied Sciences & Engineering.

Anuradha Peramunugamage of UGS (Undergraduate Division) in faculty of Engineering working in the capacity of Programmer cum Systems Analyst was awarded a certificate under the category of Outstanding Posters in Social sciences in the IPPC2020.

## Travel & Visit

### Dr. Thushara Subasinghe Attended Consultant Development in Chemicals Management and Safety Program 2020 by NCPC



National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka invited Dr. Thushara Subasinghe as a resource person to their Consultant Development in Chemicals Management and safety program 2020. Dr. Thushara joined the program to visit Noyon Lanka Pvt Ltd, Biyagama on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2020, which is a model factory which has successfully implemented a Chemical

Management System. A Chemical Management System is a process that helps commercial entities to maintain compliance with environmental and food safety policy. It was quite pleasant to see Sri Lankan industries adapting fast to the global trend of chemical management in an authentic way. Further more the participants of the Consultant

Development in Chemicals Management and Safety Programme 2020 witnessed a successful implementation of Chemical Leasing model which falls under the Chemical Management umbrella in which they shift volume based chemical purchase to a chemical as a service model.

## Retirements

### Retirement of Eng. PVA Hemalal, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Earth Resources Engineering



A felicitation ceremony to recognize the long and invaluable service of Eng. PVA Hemalal, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Earth Resources Engineering was held at the Department on his retirement day (30<sup>th</sup> September 2020). Staff members and students of the department delivered speeches appreciating his service. The Department wishes Eng. PVA Hemalal all the best on his retirement.



## Felicitation Ceremony

### Felicitation Ceremony of Prof. Lalith de Silva



Professor Lalith de Silva was felicitated by the staff and undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 at New Building, Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa and Waters Edge, Battaramulla. Prof. Lalith de Silva joined

the Department of Building Economics as a senior lecturer in 1990 and continued to serve the University in various capacities such as Associate Professor, Professor in Building Economics, Head of Department of Building Economics and Dean of Faculty

of Architecture. Prof. Lalith De Silva is a distinguished visionary in academia as well as in planning, designing and construction. He has contributed tremendously in steering the Department of Building Economics to its current prominence.

## Academic & Industry Collaboration

### Startup Fostering Programme of the “Enterprise”



The Enterprise, University Business Linkage Cell has launched a series of activities for its startup groups recently.

The startup groups “AGX, Pristine, ThermalR, Wiyamana, AbRuTeCh, and MagicBit” participated in these activities.

The series of activities involved sessions on Company incorporation and Management, Financial handling, Design Thinking, Product packaging and marketing. Many resource persons from Ernst&Young, and Publicis Groupe participated in these sessions. A well-experienced Beijing based entrepreneur Mr. Biman Ratnayake also offered a mentoring session on Entrepreneur’s mindset.

The sessions were very interactive and informative, and the startup groups were inspired and guided to build their tech-business successfully.

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