



page
22



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page
21



page
19



page
20

Professor Ruwan Gopura, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Senior Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa, delivered a keynote address at the IEEE Students, Young Professionals, and Women in Engineering (SYW) Congress 2025, held at Jie Jie Beach Hotel on 26th September 2025. His keynote speech, titled “The Role of Medical Technology in

Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

Prof . Ruwan Gopura Delivered Guest of Honour’s Address at the 84th Annual Sessions of the Galle Medical Association



Professor Ruwan Gopura, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, attended the 84th Annual Sessions of the Galle Medical Association on 24th September as the Guest

of Honour, and he delivered the Guest of Honour’s address on “Health Frontiers through Technological Innovation: The Role of Medical Technology in a Changing World.”

The conference, held under the theme “Health Frontiers through Technological Innovation and Advanced Medical Education,” focused on the vital intersection of technology and healthcare, highlighting the transformative impact of innovation on modern medical practice.

Professor Gopura’s address emphasized the growing synergy between engineering and medicine and the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in driving the next generation of healthcare solutions.

Keynote Address at IEEE SYW Congress 2025



Shaping a Smarter Future,” explored how cutting-edge innovations in healthcare

technologies are transforming lives and paving the way toward a healthier, smarter, and more inclusive future. The talk highlighted the growing synergy between engineering and medicine, emphasising the impact of research and innovation in enhancing the quality of life for individuals and communities.

The IEEE SYW Congress 2025 served as an inspiring forum for sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and encouraging the next generation of engineers and scientists to contribute to technological advancement for societal well-being.

Prof. Ruwan Gopura Delivered a Plenary Speech at KDU International Research Conference 2025



Professor Ruwan Gopura, Senior Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa, delivered a plenary speech at the Kotelawala Defence University International Research Conference (KDU IRC 2025) held on 30th September 2025 at KDU.

His talk, titled “Assistive Robots in Healthcare: Engineering Innovation for Sustainable Well-Being,” was presented at

Webinar on Robotic Technologies for Revolutionizing Healthcare



Professor Ruwan Gopura, Senior Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa, conducted the Monthly Webinar of the Engineering Sub-theme of the International Research Conference of the Open University of Sri Lanka 2025

(IRC-OUSL 2025). The online session was held on 22nd October 2025. His talk, titled “Robotic Technologies for Revolutionising Healthcare,” explored how advancements in robotics are transforming healthcare delivery through enhanced precision, efficiency, and accessibility. Professor

the Engineering Plenary Session under the theme “Sustainable Development through Interdisciplinary Engineering Solutions.”

During the session, Professor Gopura discussed how assistive robotic technologies are reshaping modern healthcare by empowering individuals with physical limitations, improving the efficiency of caregivers, and contributing to the long-term sustainability of healthcare systems. His insights highlighted the vital role of engineering innovation in promoting inclusive and sustainable healthcare solutions for future societies.

Dr. Luminda Gunawardhana from the Department of Civil Engineering Delivers Keynote Address at World Rivers Day 2025



Dr. Luminda Gunawardhana delivered the keynote address at the World Rivers Day 2025 celebration organized by the Riverine Management Branch of the Irrigation Department. The event was held on 9th October 2025 at the Irrigation Department Main Auditorium, Colombo. His keynote, titled “Rivers in a Changing Climate: Harnessing Remote Sensing and Machine Learning for Sustainable Water Management,” highlighted the escalating challenges faced by river basins under climate change. Dr. Gunawardhana emphasized rising hydrological variability, more frequent extreme events, the importance of remote sensing in addressing data gaps, and the growing

role of machine learning and integrated hydrological modelling in supporting evidence-based water resources planning. The event was attended by key officials, including Dr. (Eng.) Kithsiri Weligepolage, Additional Director General of Irrigation; Eng. Ajith Gunasekara, Director General of Irrigation; and Eng. YMNU Buddhika, Director of Irrigation – Riverine Management, along with over 100 engineers and engineering assistants. Dr. Gunawardhana’s address underscored the need to blend advanced technologies with robust modelling tools to ensure sustainable river basin management in an era of rapid environmental change.

Academic & Industry Collaboration

Visit of Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee Delegation to the University of Moratuwa



The University of Moratuwa (UoM) had the privilege of hosting a high-level delegation from the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee), India, on 29th September 2025. The visit marked a significant milestone in strengthening academic and research collaborations between the two prestigious institutions.

Delegation from IIT Roorkee

- Prof. Kamal Kishore Pant – Director, IIT Roorkee, and Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering
- Prof. Vimal Chandra Srivastava – Dean International Relations, GB Pant Institute Chair Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering



- Prof. Sanjay H Upadhyay – Professor, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; Coordinator, ISRO-IIT Roorkee Space Technology Cell

Representatives from the University of Moratuwa

- Prof. Niranjana Gunawardena – Vice-Chancellor
- Prof. DP Chandrasekara – Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Prof. Jagath Manatunge – Dean, Faculty of Engineering
- Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa – Head, Department of Civil Engineering
- Prof. Ranjith Amarasinghe – Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Prof. (Ms.) Manisha Gunasekera – Head, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering
- Dr. GVI Samaradivakara – Director, International Relations
- Prof. Chinthaka Mallikarachchi – Professor, Department of Civil Engineering
- Dr. Nimal Wijayaratna – Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering
- Dr. Lakshitha Fernando – Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering
- Dr. Sumudu Herath – Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering
- Dr. Mahinsasa Rathnayake – Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering
- Ms. Yashodara Karunarathne – Assistant Registrar, External Affairs, Publicity and International Student Promotion Division

A Letter of Intent was formally signed between the University of Moratuwa and IIT Roorkee during the visit, marking the initiation of preparatory work toward establishing Joint Doctoral Degree Programmes between the two institutions. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is currently being processed to strengthen academic and research excellence across multiple engineering disciplines. The proposed

MoU aims to facilitate the exchange of information on research and educational programmes, promote collaborative research initiatives, encourage staff and faculty exchange, and support the organisation of joint workshops and academic events that will benefit students and faculty from both universities.

The collaboration between UoM and IIT Roorkee is expected to generate substantial academic and research synergies, including:

- Joint research publications and intellectual property development
- Opportunities to address real-world and region-specific challenges
- Platforms for innovation, testing, and implementation across diverse industries and communities

More details about IIT Roorkee: <https://dms.uom.lk/s/EBAx3c7sBpgw3Xn>



Department of Civil Engineering Hosts Industry Networking Session 2025



The Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, successfully hosted the Industry Networking Session 2025 on 23rd October 2025 at Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo. The event was organised as a follow-up to the Civil Engineering Research Symposium 2025 (CERS 2025), with the objective of fostering stronger collaboration between academia and the construction industry.

The evening commenced with the launch of the brochure titled “Services and Contributions to Industry”, highlighting the Department’s extensive expertise, postgraduate and short course programmes, consultancy services, and research contributions to the civil engineering sector in Sri Lanka and beyond.



A key feature of the event was an engaging panel discussion on strengthening industry-academia collaboration, which brought together leading professionals and academics to explore practical pathways for joint initiatives, innovation-driven

partnerships, and capacity building for the future. The event also included an appreciation ceremony to recognise and thank the sponsors of CERS 2025 for their invaluable support in making the symposium a success.

The formal proceedings were followed by a networking session and fellowship dinner, offering a vibrant platform for professionals and academics to exchange ideas, discuss emerging trends, and build meaningful connections that pave the way for future collaborations.

The Industry Networking Session 2025 reaffirmed the Department's commitment to bridging the gap between industry and academia, promoting research-driven solutions, and contributing to the sustainable development of Sri Lanka's built environment.

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Delegation Visits University of Moratuwa



A delegation from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia, visited the University of Moratuwa (UoM) on 3rd October 2025. The event, held at the Medical Faculty Board Room, marked another important milestone in strengthening international academic and research collaborations.

The visiting delegation was led by Distinguished Professor Calum Drummond, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) of RMIT, accompanied by a team of senior academics and research leaders across Engineering, Medicine, Business, Science, and Technology.

The delegation was warmly received by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, along with faculty leaders and researchers. The visit was organized by Prof. Lalith Rajapakse (UoM-RMIT

Program Coordinator, UoM) and the Department of Civil Engineering, reflecting the long-standing engagement between the two institutions.

The meeting provided an important platform to explore new collaborative opportunities across faculties and institutes. The following presentations and briefings highlighted the potential for joint initiatives:

Information Technology and Engineering

- Briefing on Opportunities in IT/ Computer Science, Electrical/ Electronics Engineering – Prof. John Thangarajah (Professor in AI and Director of Research, RMIT)

Architecture and Built Environment

- Research Interests, National Projects, and Collaboration Prospects – Prof. (Ms.) Yasangika Sandanayake

(Dean, Faculty of Architecture, UoM)

Medical Science

- Research Opportunities and National Health Priorities – Prof. SD Pilapitiya (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, UoM)

Business Studies

- Research Interests and National Requirements in Business and Management – Prof. Dinesh Samarasinghe (Dean, Faculty of Business, UoM)

Cotutelle PhD Program

- Briefing on the Ongoing RMIT-UoM Cotutelle PhD Program – Prof. Lalith Rajapakse (UoM-RMIT Program Coordinator, UoM)
- Introduction to the Ongoing Program and Future Opportunities – Prof. Sujeeva Setunge (Associate



Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, RMIT)

Future Research Direction

- Prospects for RMIT-UoM Research Expansion – Prof. Ruwan Gopura (Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, UoM)

Department of Civil Engineering Welcomes Delegates from Shandong University of Science and Technology



The Transportation Engineering Division of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, had the pleasure

of welcoming a team of delegates from Shandong University of Science and Technology. The visit provided a valuable

platform to discuss potential collaborations, student exchange programs, and academic visits, with the shared goal of enhancing research and educational partnerships in the field of Transportation Engineering. Both institutions exchanged ideas on innovative approaches to transportation research and the role of academic collaboration in addressing global mobility challenges. The Division looks forward to continuing this dialogue and working together toward innovative and sustainable transportation solutions through strengthened international partnerships.

Smart City Ideathon 2025 Concludes with Inspiring Final Showcase at Port City Colombo



The Department of Town and Country Planning (TCP), University of Moratuwa, together with CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd., successfully hosted the Final Showcase of the **Smart City Ideathon 2025** on 8th November at the Port City Sales Gallery, marking the culmination of a dedicated seven-month journey. What began as a collaboration between the University and Port City Colombo later grew into a wider partnership, with the Institute of Town Planners Sri Lanka (ITPSL) joining for the final event. The showcase was held in parallel with the 76th World Town Planning Day celebrations under the global theme **“With Planning, We Can – Shaping Smarter and More Prosperous Cities.”**

The Ideathon commenced in May 2025



with an introductory session at Port City Colombo and guided students through stages of problem identification, mentoring, and concept development. By October, ideas were refined into six themes and represented by six finalist teams:

- **Digital Materials and Circular Infrastructure** (Team E-Volution)
- **Waste Management** (Team Planovista)

- **Environmental Health and Ecosystem Dynamics** (Team Next Plan)
- **Sustainable Energy and Power Resilience** (Team DreamNova)
- **Port City Sandbox** (Team Pulse)
- **Port City AI** (Team Metrominds)

The event featured a guest talk by Mr. Heminda Jayaweera, Executive Director of Trace City, who emphasized



that a smart city is shaped not only by devices or digital systems but by people becoming smarter through innovation, creativity, and thoughtful planning.

A panel discussion followed under the title **“Planning Smart Cities Towards a**

Prosperous Nation – Insights from the Smart City Ideathon.” The panel included Prof. Jagath Munasinghe (University of Moratuwa), Plnr. Lalith Wijerathne (UDA), Plnr. Anuja Mendis (CMC), Plnr. Jeyatharani Senthoooran (CHEC Port City Colombo), and Plnr. NASN Nissanka



(President, ITPSL). The event concluded on a highly successful note, celebrating strong student performance, meaningful collaboration, and a shared commitment to shaping Sri Lanka’s next generation of smart city thinkers and innovators.

Advantis All Around (AAA)



Third-year undergraduates from the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering, University of Moratuwa, participated in Advantis All Around (AAA) on 10th September 2025. The event was organized by Hayleys Advantis with the aim of preparing university students to step confidently into the logistics and supply chain industry.

The interactive workshop provided an engaging platform that combined fun with hands-on learning, giving participants



valuable exposure to real-world logistics and supply chain challenges. Through gamified activities, students explored key areas such as freight management, integrated logistics solutions, marine and energy sectors, projects and engineering, and travel and aviation. The experience also helped them develop essential professional skills including critical thinking, teamwork, and time management.

Participating in initiatives like Advantis All Around offers students a unique opportunity to connect classroom knowledge with practical industry applications. Such collaborations play a significant role in enhancing their understanding of industry dynamics and empowering them to build successful careers in the fields of transport, logistics, and supply chain management.



Guest Lectures / Talks

Visitor Talk on Soft Robots



The guest lecture for the month of September, conducted by Prof. Thrishantha Nanayakkara, was held on 10th September 2025 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode, with the participation of over 31 research students, visitors, and academic staff members. His lecture was successfully delivered on the topic “Soft Robots as Proxies to Understand Biological Secrets Behind Complex Interactions.”

Archive session is available at: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbISGW5DiM2fUJM_nZyXXpVDVZ3KvS3&si=ul3zDDF_7ndvzzhX

Exploring Sustainability: Guest Lecture for Level 2 Quantity Surveying Undergraduates

A guest lecture on “Introduction to Concepts of Sustainability” was organized for Level 2 Quantity Surveying undergraduates on 28th October 2025. The insightful session was delivered by Professor Missaka Hettiarachchi, Adjunct Professor at James Cook University, who brought a wealth of academic and industry expertise to the discussion. The lecture provided students with a comprehensive understanding of sustainability, focusing on its fundamental principles and the importance of integrating sustainable practices into the built environment. The session also highlighted evolving global trends in sustainability, exploring how innovative



thinking and technological advancements are shaping modern construction practices to achieve environmental, economic, and social balance. Through engaging examples and real-world insights, the

lecture encouraged students to reflect on the critical role quantity surveyors play in promoting sustainable development across all stages of construction projects.

Guest Lecture for Level 3 Quantity Surveying Undergraduates on Pricing Strategies in Construction Projects



A guest lecture on “Pricing Strategies in Construction Projects” was held on 28th October 2025 for Level 3 Quantity Surveying undergraduates, offering valuable industry insights into one of the most crucial areas of quantity surveying

practice. The session was conducted by Ch. QS. Majith Kodithuwakku, General Manager – Estimates and Contracts at ICC (Pvt.) Ltd., a distinguished professional with extensive experience in construction cost management. The lecture provided

in-depth insights into the principles and strategies behind pricing construction projects, emphasising the significance of accurate and strategic pricing in ensuring project competitiveness and profitability. A highlight of the session was the discussion on emerging technologies, particularly the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital tools in enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of the pricing process. Students gained insights into how technological integration is transforming traditional estimating practices and shaping the future of cost management in the construction industry.

Mantra to Thrive in the World of Employment: A guest lecture by Dialog Axiata



Undergraduates specializing in Financial Services Management from the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, Intake 2021, had the privilege of attending an inspiring guest lecture titled “Mantra to Thrive in the World of Employment”, conducted by Mr. Pasindu Bhanuka Premarathne, Manager – HR Analytics, Budget and



Benefit Management at Dialog Axiata PLC, on 3rd September 2025. Organized as part of the Intercultural Business Etiquettes module, the session provided valuable insights and practical strategies to help students excel in the dynamic world of work. Mr. Premarathne shared his professional experiences on overcoming workplace challenges, developing adaptability, and leveraging opportunities

for career advancement. The session not only inspired students but also equipped them with the mindset and tools to step confidently into their future careers. The Department of Industrial Management extends its sincere gratitude to Mr. Premarathne for his continuous support in empowering our students with knowledge and wisdom that extend well beyond the classroom.

Advancing Research Skills: Session on Qualitative Data Analysis



Undergraduates specializing in Financial Services Management from the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, gained valuable insights into Qualitative Data Analysis during an engaging session conducted by Mr. Romesh De Silva, Lecturer in Business Management and Organization Studies,



Faculty of Management and Commerce, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, on 4th September 2025. As part of the Business Research Methods module, the session deepened students’ understanding of qualitative research approaches and analytical techniques. Mr. De Silva—an emerging researcher with a strong focus on diversity and organizational contexts, and the winner of the National

Pitching Research Competition—shared his expertise and practical experiences, encouraging students to approach qualitative inquiry with confidence and critical thinking. The Department of Industrial Management extends its profound gratitude to Mr. De Silva for his time, knowledge, and dedication to empowering students on their research journey.

Enhancing Taxation Knowledge: Value Added Tax Session for FSM Undergraduates



Undergraduates specializing in Financial Services Management from the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, Intake 2021, gained valuable insights into Value Added Tax (VAT) during an informative session conducted by Mr. BLM Dananjaya on 17th September 2025. Organized as part of the Corporate and Personal Taxation

module, the session enriched students’ understanding of VAT principles and their real-world applications within business and regulatory frameworks. Mr. Dananjaya—an academic researcher and lecturer with experience in both India and Sri Lanka, and co-founder of the GCSM Academy—shared his expertise

and encouraged students to approach taxation concepts with analytical thinking and practical insight. The Department of Industrial Management extends its sincere gratitude to Mr. Dananjaya for his valuable contribution, guidance, and continued commitment to nurturing the next generation of finance professionals.



FSM Undergraduates Gain Insights into Table Etiquette at SLITHM



Undergraduates specializing in Financial Services Management from the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, Intake 2021, had the unique opportunity to attend a guest lecture on “Table Etiquette” at the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management on 24th September 2025, as part of the Intercultural Business Etiquette

module. The session offered students valuable practical insights and the chance to experience professional dining etiquette firsthand, enhancing their readiness for business and corporate settings. The Department of Industrial Management extends its sincere gratitude to Mr. TN Weerarathna, Cluster Head – Food and

Beverage, for coordinating the session, and Mr. JKDDN Jayasingha, Lecturer – Food and Beverage, for conducting the lecture. Their expertise and guidance provided students with a comprehensive understanding of professional dining etiquette in business contexts.



Preparing for Tomorrow: Launching Your Career in an AI-Driven, Human-Centred World



The Department of Management of Technology organized a special guest lecture titled “Preparing for Tomorrow: Launching Your Career in an AI-Driven, Human-Centered World” on 2nd October 2025. This



session targeted the undergraduates of the Faculty of Business at the University of Moratuwa. The session was conducted by Mr. Ranil Rajapakse, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of

IFS, who shared his extensive experience and insights on shaping a successful career in today’s rapidly evolving, AI-driven world. Drawing from his 27 years at IFS, Mr. Rajapakse discussed the importance of adaptability, continuous learning, and human-centered innovation in the modern workplace. He also emphasised the vital role of collaboration between academia and industry in building a strong IT ecosystem in Sri Lanka. Students gained valuable exposure to industry trends and professional perspectives, making the session a meaningful experience for those preparing to enter the dynamic field of technology and management.

Creating and Maintaining Your Professional Brand



The Department of Management of Technology conducted a guest lecture titled “Creating and Maintaining Your



Professional Brand” on 20th September 2025, targeting postgraduate students of the MBA in Management of Technology program. The session was facilitated by Dr. Dharshani Thennakoon, Lecturer

at Victoria University, Melbourne, who shared her expertise on developing a strong and authentic professional identity in today’s competitive work environment. Drawing from her extensive experience

Lean Six Sigma Workshop



A workshop on “Lean Six Sigma” was organized by the Department of Management of Technology on 23rd September 2025, targeting undergraduates of the BBS^c. program at the University of Moratuwa. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Dumidu Ranaweera, Chief Executive Officer of Lean Six Sigma Asia LLC. Recognized as the “Lean Six Sigma

Guru of Sri Lanka,” Mr. Ranaweera shared his expertise on process excellence and organizational improvement, emphasizing the value of Lean Six Sigma in driving efficiency and quality across industries. During the session, he introduced practical approaches for applying Lean Six Sigma principles and inspired students to adopt a mindset of continuous improvement in

of over 13 years in teaching and research in HR Management across Sri Lanka and Australia, Dr. Thennakoon guided students on aligning their personal strengths and values with professional goals. She also emphasized the importance of continuous self-development and consistency in personal branding. The interactive session provided valuable insights for students to reflect on their professional image and prepare effectively for future career opportunities.

their academic and professional journeys. The session offered participants a valuable opportunity to learn directly from one of the region’s most accomplished Lean Six Sigma leaders and gain exposure to globally recognized best practices in process excellence.

Echoes in the Wild



SCREEN TALKS 1.0 - NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR Sri Lanka’s Path to Coexistence

The Sustainable Coexistence Research & Education Network (SCREEN) research group at the University of Moratuwa is a multidisciplinary initiative aimed at advancing sustainable coexistence between humans and wildlife through research, education, and innovative policy solutions. As part of its outreach, SCREEN launched the inaugural **SCREEN Talks 1.0** on 25th September 2025 at the Department of Town and Country Planning to provide a platform for dialogue among researchers, policymakers, and local communities on pressing human–elephant conflict (HEC) issues.

The guest talk featured Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya, Lead Environmental Specialist at the World Bank and former Director General of Wildlife Conservation. Drawing on decades of experience, Dr. Pilapitiya highlighted why many HEC mitigation plans have failed. He explained that these interventions have often been



human-centered, assuming elephants should be confined to Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) protected areas, without accounting for elephants’ biological and behavioral needs, including their ranging patterns, social structure, and feeding habits.

He outlined four reasons for failure:

1. Fragmented policies and a lack of coordination across different authorities.

2. Insufficient understanding of elephant behavior.
3. Uncoordinated and ad hoc land-use planning and implementation of development projects.
4. Short-term mitigation methods that ignore ecological realities.

Dr. Pilapitiya emphasized the importance of conflict mapping and data-driven land-use planning in identifying high-risk zones.

Insights from WNPS

The Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS) joined as a guest collaborator, sharing insights from ongoing initiatives. WNPS’s work provides practical models for integrating community engagement with wildlife protection while promoting sustainable livelihoods.



Guest lecture on complexities in Ride – Hailing in Sri Lanka



On October 16th, 2025, the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering hosted a special guest lecture by Mr. Dileep Udara, Head of Supply at PickMe, Digital Mobility Solutions Lanka PLC. The session was highly interactive and provided students with valuable insights into the evolving landscape of transport management and mobility solutions.

Mr. Udara discussed the relevance of transport management theories in the modern business environment, highlighting how key concepts align with organizational operations and strategic decision-making. He also shared lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent economic crisis, emphasizing

the importance of adaptability, innovation, and resilience in maintaining business continuity during disruptive times. Furthermore, he elaborated on creating value for society through transport and mobility solutions, demonstrating how responsible management and technological innovation in the sector can contribute to broader social and economic development. The session provided students with an excellent opportunity to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world industry practices. Through Mr. Udara's practical insights and experiences, they were able to better understand how transport management concepts are applied in dynamic business environments. The

SCREEN Initiatives and Participant Engagement

Following the keynote, the SCREEN Research Team presented its strategic initiatives under the Sustainable Coexistence, Education, and Research Network (SCREEN). The plans aim to integrate research, policy, and practice by advancing decision-support systems for land-use planning, developing elephant behavioral models, and establishing settlement guidelines.

Way Forward

As Sri Lanka navigates the growing complexities of human-wildlife interactions, forums like SCREEN Talks serve as vital platforms to exchange knowledge, inspire collaboration, and shape innovative solutions for HEC mitigation.

discussion also sparked great interest among students about emerging trends and future career possibilities in the transport and mobility sectors. Overall, the lecture served as an inspiring learning experience that encouraged students to think critically and innovatively about the evolving role of transport management in society.

Inaugural Dr. LH Sumanadasa Biennial Memorial Lecture – A Fitting Tribute to a Visionary



The University of Moratuwa proudly hosted the inaugural Dr. LH Sumanadasa Biennial Memorial Lecture on Friday, 24th October 2025, at the Rupert Peiris Auditorium. The lecture commemorated the life and legacy of Dr. LH Sumanadasa, the founding father of the University of Moratuwa and a trailblazer of technical education in Sri Lanka.

The event was organized under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. ND Gunawardena and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. DP Chandrasekara, and coordinated

by Dr. GVI Samaradivakara, Director for International Relations, who was specially appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to lead the programme. The lecture was jointly supported by the Institutional Affairs Division and the External Affairs, Publicity & International Student Promotion Division, with wide participation from staff, students, and alumni. Dr. LH Sumanadasa, born in 1910 in Ambalangoda, was Sri Lanka's first aeronautical engineer and pilot, a scholar of Imperial College London, and the founding Principal of the Institute of Practical Technology. He

later became the first President of the Katubedda Campus of the University of Ceylon, which evolved into today's University of Moratuwa. His lifelong commitment to technical education and institutional development transformed the nation's engineering landscape. The Sumanadasa Building on campus remains a lasting symbol of his vision.

The evening began with the National Anthem and an emotional video tribute to Dr. Sumanadasa, whose pioneering career—from aeronautical engineering



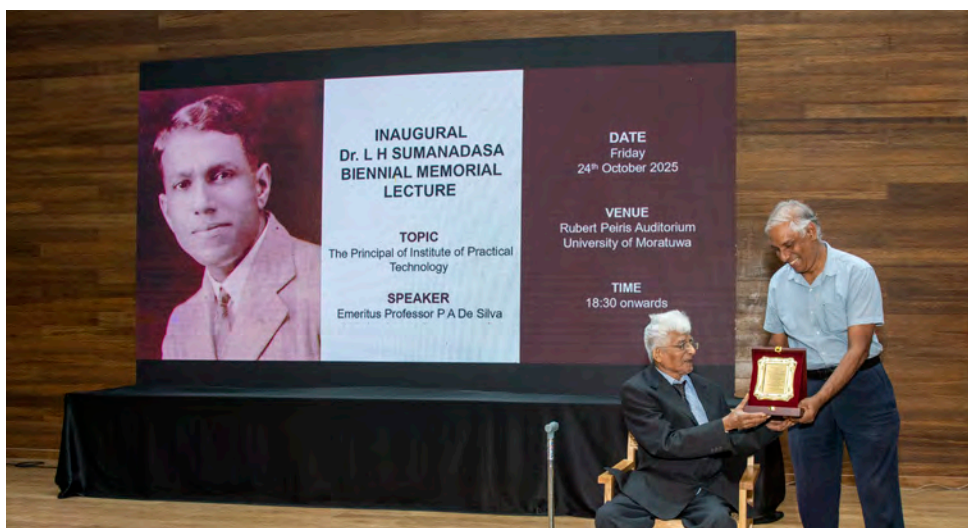
in London to establishing the Institute of Practical Technology (IPT)—was recounted through rare photographs and narration. Delivering the welcome address, Dr. GVI Samaradivakara warmly acknowledged the presence of the donor,

Eng. Ananda Sumanadasa, who had travelled from the USA to inaugurate the event in honour of his late father. He also inspired the audience with his proposal for developing domestic aviation initiatives at UoM, echoing Dr. Sumanadasa's

own passion for flight and innovation. Eng. Ananda Sumanadasa, a Cambridge-educated engineer and former President of the South Bay Transportation Officials Association in California, delivered a heartfelt speech filled with personal recollections of his father's extraordinary journey—from building model aircraft as a student in Ambalangoda to becoming Sri Lanka's first aeronautical engineer and the founding President of the Katubedda Campus.

A message from Ms. Leelani Chinathra, Dr. Sumanadasa's daughter, was then read aloud, offering a moving family tribute that emphasized his humility, intellect, and compassion as both educator and father. The evening also featured traditional music and dance performances, creating a vibrant cultural atmosphere that blended academic reflection with Sri Lankan artistry. The lecture was live-streamed globally via YouTube, drawing participants from across Sri Lanka and abroad.

Keynote Lecture by Emeritus Professor PA De Silva



The highlight of the evening was the keynote address delivered by Emeritus Professor P A De Silva, the longest-serving Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Moratuwa. Speaking on "The Principal of IPT (Institute of Practical Technology)," Prof. De Silva drew on first-hand memories of working alongside Dr. Sumanadasa during the formative years of the institution.

In his speech, Prof. De Silva described Dr. Sumanadasa as "a great man who placed no limits on expansion," recounting his dedication to building IPT from humble beginnings into a national centre of engineering excellence. He fondly recalled his first encounter with Dr. Sumanadasa in

1960—"trembling with nervousness at the interview," he said—only to be welcomed warmly and encouraged to take initiative in every task.

With characteristic humour, he recited the timeless lines:

"The heights by great men attained and kept were not attained by sudden flight; while their companions slept, they were toiling upward in the night."

Prof. De Silva's address was both nostalgic and inspiring, highlighting the early challenges of recruiting staff and students, the transformation from IPT to the Ceylon College of Technology, and the unwavering vision of Dr. Sumanadasa

that continues to guide the University of Moratuwa today. The success of the event was made possible through the dedicated teamwork of the Institutional Affairs Division, the External Affairs, Publicity and International Student Promotion Division, and academic departments including Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Integrated Design, Materials Science & Engineering, and Earth Resources Engineering. Staff from the Works, Security, Library, and Faculty of Architecture Divisions also played vital roles in planning, technical support, and venue management.

The formal Vote of Thanks acknowledged the efforts of all contributors and extended gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Samaradivakara for their leadership and vision. Many academic staff, students, and alumni attended the event in person, while others from around the world joined online. The lecture received resounding praise for its professionalism, warmth, and historical significance. It was universally hailed as a proud moment for the University of Moratuwa. Thanks to the vision and generosity of Eng. Ananda Sumanadasa, this biennial lecture will continue to honour the legacy of Dr. LH Sumanadasa. The next Dr. LH Sumanadasa Biennial Memorial

Academic Programs

Department of Earth Resources Engineering, University of Moratuwa Launches New Postgraduate Programmes in Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems



On 30th October 2025, the Department of Earth Resources Engineering at the University of Moratuwa launched three new postgraduate programmes in Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems (RS & GIS):

1. Master of Science in Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems [MSc (RS & GIS)]
2. Master of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems [MRS & GIS]
3. Postgraduate Diploma in Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems [PGDip (RS & GIS)]

Lecture will be held in 2027, continuing this tradition of inspiration and excellence.

“Dr. Sumanadasa placed no limits on growth,” Prof. De Silva reminded the audience—a timeless message that captures the spirit of the university he helped build and the enduring legacy he left behind.

For more information and to watch the full lecture, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BowliDmGYDg>

Photo Credits – Mr. Melro Mendis

3. Postgraduate Diploma in Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems [PGDip (RS & GIS)]

The launch event included remarks from Dr. SP Chaminda (Course Coordinator), Dr. LPS Rohitha (Head of Department), and Professor Jagath Manatunge (Dean, Faculty of Engineering), with participation from staff and invited experts.

The first batch of students will begin classes in mid-November 2025, marking a new chapter in geospatial education at the university.

Research Lounge #27



The 27th Research Lounge, organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in collaboration with the Library, University of Moratuwa, was held on 23rd September 2025 in the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode.

The Lounge was conducted by Prof. Bingunath Ingrige, Professor in Urban Resilience and Adaptation, School of Science, Engineering and Environment, University of Salford, UK. The session was moderated by Dr. Nayani Gunawardena, Senior Assistant Librarian, Library, University of Moratuwa.

The Lounge was successfully conducted on the topic “Critical Review of Literature: How to Transform Knowledge Whilst



Doing It Right?” with the attendance of more than 108 research students and academic staff members.

Archive session is available at:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbISG_W5DiM3bmNmQei-OTZfiSyWJS8Vk&si=zvbKODuaAOa6_J3i

Conferences & Symposia

Department of Earth Resources Engineering Hosts ISERME 2025 - A Crossroads for Earth Resource Experts



The 9th International Symposium on Earth Resources Management & Environment (ISERME 2025) was held on 19–20 September at the Centre of Excellence for Water and Sanitation, Sri Lanka. Organized by the Department of Earth Resources Engineering of the University



of Moratuwa, alongside the Division of Sustainable Resources Engineering, Hokkaido University, and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Tohoku University, Japan, the symposium marked a continued partnership focused on advancing technical and environmental solutions in the field of earth resources. The event brought together researchers, engineers, and academics from Sri Lanka, Japan, and other countries to exchange knowledge.

Opening Remarks and Keynote

The inauguration featured remarks by Dr. LPS Rohitha, General Chair of ISERME; the Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa; and the Head of the Division of Sustainable Resources Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Hokkaido University. Eng. Samitha Jayakody, CEO of Resources Development Consultants (Pvt) Ltd., served as Chief Guest and spoke on the importance of sustainable development in Sri Lanka's resource sector. Professor Jun-ichi Kodama of Hokkaido University delivered the keynote address, presenting research on rock slope deformation using field measurements and numerical simulations.

His talk highlighted the role of integrated methods in improving geological safety and infrastructure planning. The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Organizing Committee Co-chair, Dr. ABN Dassanayake.

Technical Sessions

The symposium included five themed sessions:

- Innovations Beneath and Above the Surface
- Building a Sustainable Earth Through Technology
- Rethinking Resources for a Sustainable Future
- Innovation for Exploration and Restoration
- Resilience Engineering for a Sustainable Earth

Thirty-seven papers were presented, covering topics such as mining, tunnel engineering, geochemistry, groundwater studies, mineral processing, ocean resources, and disaster management. The sessions provided a platform for sharing applied research and discussing practical approaches to resource management.



Networking and Field Visit

Participants gathered for a networking dinner at Ramadia Ran Mal Holiday Resort, Moratuwa, promoting informal exchanges among professionals and students. On the second day, attendees visited the Bogala Graphite Mine in Aruggammana, gaining direct insight into Sri Lanka's mineral extraction practices.

Looking Ahead

ISERME 2025 reinforced the value of international collaboration in addressing resource-related engineering challenges. By combining academic research with field-based learning, the symposium supported ongoing efforts to improve resource management strategies and promote sustainable development.

For more details, visit the <https://uom.lk/ere/iserme2025>.

The 8th Materials Engineering Symposium for Industry and Innovations (MESII) 2025



The Department of Materials Science and Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering successfully held its annual flagship event, the Materials Engineering Symposium



for Industry and Innovations (MESII), on the 25th of September 2025 at the Department premises. This year marked the 8th consecutive edition of MESII, which serves as a platform to strengthen

the link between academia and industry while showcasing student innovations. The Chief Guest of the event was Mr. Kalana Bamunuarachchi, Head of Discovery Labs at Twinery – Innovations by MAS and a



distinguished alumnus of the Department. The opening ceremony was graced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Faculty Deans, and numerous industry partners. The symposium featured oral and poster presentations by finalists from Intake 20,

highlighting their research and industrially relevant innovations. In parallel, the Department Industrial Consultative Board (DICB) meeting was convened with the participation of industry representatives and departmental members to foster

collaboration and strategic dialogue. The event concluded with engaging discussions and the dissemination of new knowledge, reinforcing the Department's commitment to advancing industrial innovation through materials engineering.

Civil Engineering Research Symposium (CERS) 2025



and Solutions Portfolio at INSEE Cement (Pvt) Ltd., graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Herath Manthirithilake, Emeritus Scientist at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), attended as the Keynote Speaker.

The symposium proceedings were produced as a book of abstracts, comprising the findings of the latest undergraduate research projects. The research highlighted advances in Structural Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, Hydraulic Engineering, Construction Management, Environmental Engineering, and Transportation Engineering. A selected set of abstracts was presented by students at the symposium.

A 3-Minute Thesis (3-MT) Challenge for postgraduate students was also organized in parallel, demonstrating their latest research achievements in a concise and creative manner. The winners of the competition were announced at the symposium and awarded certificates.

As a special feature of CERS 2025, the Department of Civil Engineering formally recognised undergraduate and graduate students whose research work had been published as full-length, peer-reviewed articles in Q1- or Q2-ranked journals, reaffirming the Department's commitment to promoting excellence in research and publication.

The Civil Engineering Research Symposium (CERS) 2025, organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, was successfully held on the 23rd of October 2025 at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. The symposium showcased the latest and most novel research activities undertaken by undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Department. Dr. Moussa Baalbaki, Director of Products



UMCSAWM Collaborates with UMSGET-India for the First International Conference on Energy and Water for a Sustainable Environment (ICEWSE 2025)



The UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM), University of Moratuwa, joined hands with the UNESCO Madanjeet School of Green Energy Technologies (UMSGET), Pondicherry University, India, and the South Asia Foundation (SAF) to successfully co-organize the First International Conference on Energy and Water for a Sustainable Environment (ICEWSE 2025). The conference was held on 30th September and 1st October 2025 at Pondicherry University, India.

Under the theme **"Sustainable Synergies: Advancing Energy and Water Solutions for a Resilient Future,"** the event brought together over 120 academics, researchers, policymakers, and industry experts from the South Asia region and beyond to discuss innovations and integrated strategies for sustainable energy and water management. The event was graced by the presence of the SAF Principal Trustee, Madam France Marque, as the



Guest of Honour, along with several other distinguished dignitaries and invited guests. ICEWSE 2025 featured keynote sessions, technical paper presentations,

and interactive discussions led by esteemed scientists and professionals across South Asia. The UMCSAWM delegates, including faculty and postgraduate researchers, actively contributed through presentations, technical exchanges, and networking sessions. Through this conference, academic partnerships between Sri Lanka and India were strengthened, while reinforcing UMCSAWM's commitment to advancing regional collaboration and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UMCSAWM Showcases Research Excellence at the Regional Climate Change Conference (RCCC 2025)



The Regional Climate Change Conference (RCCC 2025), organized by IHE-Delft with the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM), University of Moratuwa as an academic partner, was successfully held from 13th to 15th October 2025 at the Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo. The conference, themed **“The Intersection of Climate Science, Adaptation, and Climate Financing: Focus on the Global South and Inclusivity,”** brought together over 130 participants from 26 countries, including collaborating researchers, policymakers, and development partners to advance regional climate resilience.

The UMCSAWM delegates, including faculty and postgraduate researchers, made significant contributions through a special session on **“Integrated Modeling Approaches for Managing Climate-Resilient Water Systems and Hydroclimatic Extremes,”** paper presentations, and technical discussions. Dr. Luminda Gunawardhana, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Civil Engineering/UMCSAWM, delivered a keynote address titled **“Beyond Conventional Drought Analysis: Unlocking Hidden Characteristics and New Possibilities under Climate Change with Advanced Remote Sensing,”** attended by all participants. Ms. Paboda Jayawardane, a UMCSAWM/Department of Civil



collaboration and promoted inclusive climate science, empowering early-career professionals and female researchers across the Global South.

Textile Engineering Research Symposium (TERS 2025)



The Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering at the University of Moratuwa successfully concluded the third annual **Textile Engineering Research Symposium (TERS 2025)** on 1st October 2025. The symposium, held at the department's New Auditorium, served as a platform to showcase research conducted across fourteen key thematic areas within textile engineering. It brought together

undergraduate, postgraduate, and international researchers, providing an avenue for the dissemination of research findings and fostering constructive dialogue between academia and industry to promote collaborative innovation in the textile sector. This year's symposium was sponsored by MAS Capital (Pvt) Ltd and Twinery Innovation by MAS (Pvt) Ltd for the third consecutive year, reflecting



their continued commitment to advancing research in the textile and apparel sector, benefitting the Sri Lankan Textile and Apparel Industry.

The proceedings commenced with a welcome address delivered by Eng. SN Niles, Head of the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, followed by addresses from Dr. DP Chandrasekara, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, and Prof. JMA Manatunge, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. Dr. Gayani K Nandasiri, the Symposium Chair, subsequently delivered the introductory remarks, highlighting the significant improvements

introduced in the third rollout of TERS, including paper submission and reviewing via the Microsoft CMT platform and the participation of international researchers in both the technical and poster sessions. She further extended her appreciation to the organising committee and to the sponsors for their generous support.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Dilru Ratnaweera, Director of Technology Innovation at Twinery Innovation by MAS (Pvt) Ltd, on the theme “Engineering the Apparel Industry of Tomorrow: Where Innovation Meets Fashion.” His insightful talk emphasised

the integration of technology, creativity, and sustainability as pivotal drivers in transforming the contemporary textile and apparel industry. TERS 2025 featured two parallel technical sessions and a poster presentation session, providing a comprehensive platform for knowledge exchange. The technical sessions showcased the highest-rated research papers, fostering constructive dialogue among students, academics, and industry professionals. The poster session featured sixteen posters, offering an engaging and interactive environment for participants to present and discuss their research outcomes.

The symposium concluded with an awards ceremony recognising outstanding contributions across multiple categories, including Best Paper, Best Poster, and Best Poster – Popular Choice. The awardees were presented with certificates and cash prizes in recognition of their academic excellence and research achievements.

Inaugural Lecture Series #39



The inaugural lecture of Prof. Anishka Hettiarachchi was held on 16th September 2025 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode, with over 26 participants in attendance.

Her inaugural lecture was on the topic “**Neuroarchitecture: Where Design Shapes Human Emotion, Cognition, and Behavior – A Journey through Colour, Space, and Wellbeing.**” At the end of the lecture, she was formally introduced to the public as a Professor, presenting her academic achievements and professional capabilities to the country and the university.

Archive of the lecture is available at:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbISGW5DiMoGJoE5nHpbDLP4yqUwjQFs&si=yfjHaplFGg27tdSK>



Foreign Visits

Prof. Lalith Rajapakse Represents Sri Lanka at the 32nd UNESCO IHP Regional Steering Committee Meeting for Asia and the Pacific in Hanoi, Vietnam



Prof. (Eng.) RLH Lalith Rajapakse of the Department of Civil Engineering, Centre Chairman/Director of the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM), and Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Resources Management in South Asia at the University of Moratuwa, represented Sri Lanka at the 32nd Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrologic Programme (IHP) Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific (RSC-AP), held from 21st to 23rd October 2025 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The event was organised by the IHP and the Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN), and brought together representatives from UNESCO Water Family institutions, IHP National Committees, and regional experts to discuss advances in water science, management, and climate resilience. Prof. Rajapakse presented Sri Lanka's Country Report, the UMCSAWM Annual Report, and the UNESCO Chair Report, and participated in plenary sessions contributing to the regional discussion on the IHP-IX Strategic Plan (2022–2029), which identifies key water priority areas to support Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He also met with officials from the National Centre for Water Resources Planning and Investigation (NAWAPI), Vietnam, to explore collaborations in hydrological data management, groundwater monitoring, and climate adaptation. The visit is expected to strengthen UMCSAWM's global partnerships and benefit Sri Lanka's national water sector.

Student Achievements

CSE team from UoM won the Best Students Research Project Award and a Merit Award at NBQSA 2025

[From Cover page]



Mr. Dakshina Ranmal, Ms. Piumini Ranashinghe, and Mr. Thivindu Paranayapa from Batch 19, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa, were awarded two honours at NBQSA 2025: the **Best Students Research Project of the Year Award** and a **Merit Award** in the Tertiary Student category, for their final-year project titled “Deep Learning Optimization for Forest Sound Classification.”

NBQSA recognises outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations in Sri Lanka who have developed high-quality ICT products. It provides a window for gaining international recognition for local ICT innovations, improves the quality of products and services to meet international standards, and identifies young talent, offering opportunities to further develop their skills in ICT. The competition is conducted by the Sri Lankan Section of BCS The Chartered

Institute for IT. Projects were evaluated through presentations focused on novelty and creativity. The award ceremony was held on 10th October 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

“Deep Learning Optimization for Forest Sound Classification” is a pioneering research project set to revolutionise forest conservation through cutting-edge technology. The study focuses on optimising deep learning models to ensure efficient operation even with limited computational resources, balancing accuracy, energy consumption, and processing power to develop a sustainable and reliable edge-based solution for remote forest sound recognition. The findings have also been published in high-ranked journals and reputed conferences.

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering congratulates the team on this remarkable achievement and extends its best wishes for a bright future.



SLPA Best Research Award Intake 20



The Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), University of Moratuwa, proudly held its annual Final-Year Research Presentation Session on 4th October, showcasing the Top 10 research projects from Intake 20. The event celebrated the creativity, analytical skills, and academic excellence of final-year undergraduates who presented innovative studies addressing real-world challenges in transport, logistics, and supply chain management. Among these exceptional presentations, the research titled “Connecting Artificial Intelligence-Driven Supply Chain Operations Towards Circular Economy Implementation” by Harshana Ranathunga from the 20th batch was recognised with the prestigious SLPA Best Undergraduate Research Award 2025.

This award-winning study explored how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can enable and accelerate Circular Economy (CE) adoption within supply chains, fostering operations that are sustainable, resilient, and future-ready. The research represents a significant step toward integrating emerging technologies into sustainable business practices, an area of growing importance in global supply chain management. The project was supervised by Dr. Biman Hettiarachchi, with valuable guidance and support from Dr. Jayani Sudusinghe, the research coordinator. The evaluation panel, comprising Dr. Erandathi Ekanayake and Mr. Amila Bandara, commended the study for its originality, academic rigour, and practical relevance. The SLPA Best Undergraduate Research Award 2025 stands as a testament to the department’s ongoing commitment to fostering research excellence and innovation, while preparing future professionals to contribute meaningfully to the evolving fields of supply chain management, technology, and sustainability.

Chemini Mallikarachchi wins Speech Olympiad XVIII



Ms. Chemini Mallikarachchi of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (Batch 21) clinched the title of Champion at Speech Olympiad XVIII during the Grand Finals held on 30th September at

the Rupert Peiris Auditorium, University of Moratuwa. Speech Olympiad, the flagship event of the Gavel Club of the University of Moratuwa, has long served as a stage where undergraduates discover their voices and

refine the art of communication. Since its inception in 2005, it has grown to become one of the most prestigious events on the university calendar, drawing competitors from all five faculties. This year's edition, Speech Olympiad XVIII, consisted of three rounds: the preliminaries, semi-finals, and the grand finale. Ms. Chemini delivered an outstanding performance, sweeping all major awards. She was named Most Popular Speaker, Best Impromptu Speaker, Best Prepared Speaker, and was ultimately crowned the Overall Champion.

The victory also marks the third consecutive championship for CSE, following the successes of Lakindu Kariyawasam (Batch 21) and Neelayadhakshi Priyadakshan (Batch 23). The Department of Computer Science and Engineering extends its heartiest congratulations to Ms. Chemini Mallikarachchi on her remarkable achievement, as well as to all other winners of Speech Olympiad XVIII.

University of Moratuwa's BSc Hons (AI) Undergraduates Crowned Champions at Rootcode Tech Triathlon 2025

[From Cover page]



A team of BSc Hons in Artificial Intelligence undergraduates from the Department of Computational Mathematics, Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa—Team Legal Eagles X—emerged as champions of the prestigious Rootcode Tech Triathlon 2025.

The competition, which brought together over 1,100 participants from more than 170 teams nationwide, tested students across three stages—Designathon, Hackathon, and Datathon—assessing creativity, software engineering, and AI/data science

skills. Team Legal Eagles X impressed judges with their project, "Gov Portal: Revolutionizing Sri Lankan Government Services," a unified digital platform connecting all government departments. The platform features a citizen mobile app and officer web portal, supports Sinhala, Tamil, and English, includes intelligent voice assistance, and uses AI to predict service processing times. It also enables secure digital document storage and QR-based verification. The team members are Roshana Isuranga, Sandaru Fernando, Anuhas Paranawithana,

Nadil Siriwardhana, Seniru Epasinghe, Shihara Fernando, Sathsara Jayalath, Udara Wickramasinghe, and Savindu Kumarasekara. The Grand Finale and Awards Ceremony of Tech Triathlon 2025 was held on 12th September at Rootcode HQ, celebrating the achievements of the nation's brightest tech talents.

Staff Achievements

Ch. QS. Dilshan Akalanka and Dr. Nuwantha Uduwage from the Department of Building Economics Win Best Paper Award at SURE-Built 2025

Ch. QS. Dilshan Akalanka and Dr. Nuwantha Uduwage from the Department of Building Economics, together with Ms. Sasanka Weerathunge from the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau, received international recognition by winning the Best Paper Award under



the Construction and Project Management session at the 1st Global Scholarship for Sustainable Built Environment Research Conference (SURE-Built). The conference, organised by the School of Tourism and Hospitality, University of Johannesburg,



South Africa, was held on the 4th and 5th of September 2025. The award-winning paper, titled “Strategies to Enhance Productivity in Multicultural Project Management Teams in Sri Lanka,” addresses a growing reality in modern construction: the presence of

multicultural project management teams comprising individuals from diverse cultural and national backgrounds. While such diversity can foster creativity and innovation, it can also present challenges in realising organisational productivity. Recognising this, the study sought to identify and prioritise strategies that can help organisations enhance productivity in culturally diverse project environments. The study’s findings provide practical insights for construction organisations seeking to build cohesive and high-performing multicultural teams.

This achievement highlights the Department’s ongoing commitment to advancing research that supports inclusive practices in the built environment, further strengthening the University of Moratuwa’s reputation in global construction management research.

Prof. (Ms.) Dulani Meedeniya is Among the Stanford–Elsevier List of the World’s Top 2% of Scientists

[From Cover page]



Prof. (Ms.) Dulani Meedeniya, Professor in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, is among the prestigious Stanford–Elsevier Top 2% Scientists List 2025, which highlights the world’s leading scientists who have made substantial impact in their respective fields through their citation influence. For researchers, institutions, and science enthusiasts alike, this list is a vital resource to recognize excellence and track cutting-edge scientific contributions. Developed jointly by Stanford University and Elsevier, the list identifies the top 2% of scientists worldwide using standardized

citation metrics. It evaluates research impact using career-long and single-year citation data across 22 scientific fields and 174 subfields to ensure fair and comprehensive representation. The selection metric—the composite indicator (c-score)—accounts for the number of citations, co-authorship adjustments, and authorship positions, focusing on meaningful impact rather than mere productivity. Being included in this list grants scientists global recognition for advancing knowledge and influencing their scientific communities.

Prof. (Ms.) Dulani Meedeniya is a distinguished academic and researcher whose expertise spans software engineering, artificial intelligence, deep learning, and computer vision across multidisciplinary domains. She earned her PhD in Computer Science from the University of St Andrews, UK, and is a Chartered Engineer (UK) as well as a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK). She also holds memberships in leading professional bodies including IEEE (Senior Member), ACM, and IET. At the University of Moratuwa, she has contributed extensively through teaching, research supervision, and curriculum development, while her scholarly work—widely published and globally cited—demonstrates both theoretical depth and

real-world application. Her inclusion in the Stanford–Elsevier Top 2% Scientists List 2025 further affirms her role as a leading figure in advancing research and innovation in Sri Lanka and beyond.

The University of Moratuwa congratulates Prof. (Ms.) Meedeniya and all researchers recognized for their outstanding contributions in 2025.

For more information, the full database is available at the Elsevier Data Repository.

Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

Gamified Skill Building Programme for the Undergraduates of Faculty of Business

Hayleys Advantis Limited hosted a gamified skill-building programme for the 3rd-year undergraduates of the Faculty of Business on 10th September 2025, aiming to foster their personal and professional growth. This session was designed to provide students with essential skills in communication, critical thinking, problem-



solving, leadership, and time management. Key highlights of the programme included:

- **Gamified Learning:** A blend of challenges and teamwork activities designed to maintain interest and promote learning.
- **Practical Skill Development:** A focus on key competencies that are essential for career success.

- **Collaborative Environments:** Encouraging teamwork and peer learning.
- **Career Guidance:** An interactive session providing students with tools to prepare for their careers.

This experience was crafted to inspire students to develop not just knowledge, but also confidence, adaptability, and real-



world insight. The sessions, led by industry experts at Hayleys Advantis Limited, featured engaging hands-on activities that addressed real logistics challenges and included meaningful career-focused tasks designed to help students shape their own paths forward.

UMCSAWM-UoM Four-Day Training Workshop on Irrigation Engineering, Hydraulics, and Hydrological Modelling Systems



The UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM), University of Moratuwa, in collaboration with the Southern Provincial Irrigation Department (SPID), successfully conducted a Four-Day Training Workshop on Irrigation Engineering, Hydraulics, and Hydrological Modelling Systems for Water Resources Management. The workshop was conducted by the UMCSAWM and Department of Civil Engineering academic staff on the 11th, 12th, 18th, and 19th of September 2025 at the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Centre for South Asia



Water Management (UMCSAWM) and the Outdoor Urban Drainage and Irrigation Demonstration Facility, University of Moratuwa. The programme aimed to enhance the knowledge and technical skills of engineers and technical officers in irrigation practices, water management, and modelling applications.

The four-day workshop covered a comprehensive range of topics, from the fundamentals of irrigation, water demand estimation, and soil-water balance to practical training in hydraulics, canal flow, and discharge measurement. It progressed

to advanced sessions on rainfall-runoff modelling with HEC-HMS, as well as reservoir routing and flood risk assessment using HEC-RAS. These sessions collectively strengthened participants' theoretical knowledge and practical skills in integrated modelling and sustainable water management. The workshop concluded with a certificate ceremony, recognising participants' engagement and contribution to advancing regional water management capacity.

SCREEN Team at Young Researcher Programme at Udawalawa Elephant Transit Home

[From Cover page]



Encouraging the Next Generation of Researchers

The SCREEN – Sustainable Coexistence Research and Education Network of





the University of Moratuwa had the opportunity to organise a workshop with exceptional support from the Department of Wildlife Conservation and Dilmah Conservation under the School Researcher Programme undertaken by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) in collaboration with Dilmah Conservation on 5th October 2025.

Accordingly, two student groups from Orubendiwewa National School, Mahiyanganaya, and Rathnapura Sivali Central College, working under the mentorship of Dr. Chathura Kovida De Silva, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Town and Country Planning, took part in the programme, gaining valuable exposure to environmental research and conservation practices.

An Eye-Opening Learning Experience

The workshop offered participants a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of ecology, conservation, and research. From learning about elephant ecology and the realities of Human–Elephant Conflict (HEC) to visiting the Elephant Transit Home, Udawalawe, students gained first-hand insight into the delicate balance between humans and wildlife. During the visit, students also had the opportunity to observe the elephants up close and witness the dedicated efforts of the Transit Home staff working tirelessly to protect and rehabilitate orphaned elephants.



Hands-On Engagement and Collaboration

The learning experience was further enriched through a series of expert-led sessions that deepened participants' understanding of wildlife behaviour and conservation practices. Ms. Narmada Dengampola, Environmental Educator, delivered an insightful lecture on Understanding Elephant and Wild Animal Behaviour, guiding students to appreciate how animal behaviour informs conservation strategies. Mr. Sameera Weerathunga, Conservation Activist, discussed national Human–Elephant Conflict mitigation methods currently in use and reflected on the challenges and shortcomings that have limited their

effectiveness. Dr. Malaka Abeywardhana, Veterinary Surgeon at the Elephant Transit Home, shared valuable insights into the care, rehabilitation, and release of orphaned elephants, providing an eye-opening perspective on the complexities of wildlife management. Mr. Anil Withanage, Senior Wildlife Ranger, offered an engaging discussion on elephant behaviour and field management practices, drawing from years of hands-on experience in the wild.

Inspiring the Future of Coexistence

The event served as an inspiring example of how academic–community partnerships can empower youth to think critically, act sustainably, and contribute meaningfully to conservation. The SCREEN Research Team extends sincere appreciation to Dilmah Conservation, the Department of Wildlife Conservation, and all partner organisations for their collaboration and support in organising this session under the School Researcher Programme.



SCREEN Team Explores Contested Landscapes in Sri Lanka's Dry Zone



Understanding the Ground Reality of Coexistence

The Sustainable Coexistence Research and Education Network (SCREEN) of the

University of Moratuwa recently conducted a focused field visit across high Human–Elephant Conflict (HEC) areas in the North Western and North Central Provinces, including Galgamuwa, Ehetuwewa, Thabuththegama, and Nochchiyagama. The three-day visit, held from October 13 to 15, 2025, aimed to deepen the team's understanding of the complex and evolving human–elephant interactions that characterise Sri Lanka's dry zone landscapes.

Mapping Conflict through Multiple Lenses

The study sites were identified through a multi-criteria spatial analysis, which involved overlaying HEC density indicators—such as human deaths, elephant deaths, and property damage—with elephant habitat suitability, agricultural activity, and development potential. Together, these landscapes represent some of the most dynamic and contested spaces where human livelihoods and elephant territories overlap. However, as the team observed, large-scale land-



use mapping alone cannot capture the complexity of coexistence. Field observations revealed how micro-level changes in land use, settlement patterns, and agricultural practices continuously reshape the way humans and elephants share space.

Evolving Behaviours and Fragile Coexistence

Community interactions and site observations revealed striking shifts in elephant movement patterns and local adaptation strategies. Villagers reported year-round elephant visits, often by entire herds rather than solitary bulls, indicating that traditional seasonal migration patterns have begun to blur. This change

reflects both habitat fragmentation and the increasing overlap between agricultural expansion and elephant corridors.

The team also noted that coexistence already exists but remains fragile. With accelerating development pressures and conventional mitigation methods such as electric fencing and seasonal chasing, the next decade may determine whether these landscapes can continue to sustain both species—or force a difficult choice between them.

Bridging Data, Behaviour, and Decision-Making

These insights are shaping how the SCREEN Research Team rethinks its

behavioural modelling, spatial analysis, and policy recommendations. The findings will directly inform the development of decision-support systems and planning tools designed to guide sustainable land-use allocation and HEC mitigation.

Looking ahead, the team plans to return to these field sites to validate behavioural models, collect longitudinal data, and collaborate with local authorities and communities. This iterative research process aims to bridge the gap between data, behaviour, and decision-making, translating field realities into actionable strategies for coexistence.



Techno 2025



The Techno 2025 Exhibition, one of Sri Lanka’s premier engineering and technology exhibitions, was held on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of October 2025 at the BMICH. A group of third-year undergraduates from the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), University of Moratuwa, proudly participated in this national event, presenting a series of high-quality engineering exhibits that demonstrated their technical creativity and problem-solving capabilities. The students showcased three innovative projects:

a Traffic Light Simulation System, an Automated Stacking and Retrieval System, and an Automated Parking System. Each exhibit reflected practical applications of engineering concepts in addressing real-world transport and logistics challenges. The projects were well received by visitors, including industry professionals, academics, and technology enthusiasts, who commended the students for their ingenuity and technical competence. Their participation in Techno 2025 not only provided a valuable platform to demonstrate their academic and practical

skills but also offered meaningful exposure to industry trends, technological innovations, and professional networking opportunities. The exhibition experience served as a testament to the department’s commitment to fostering innovation, hands-on learning, and industry readiness among its students, reinforcing TMLE’s reputation for academic and technical excellence.

Field Visit to Prym Intimates

On 8th October 2025, a group of fourth-year undergraduates from the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering, University of Moratuwa, visited Prym Intimates as part of their final-year Capstone Project to gain valuable industry exposure. During the visit, students had the opportunity to observe and understand the company’s warehousing and manufacturing operations, gaining firsthand insight into how theory translates into practice. The Prym Intimates team conducted

Field Visit to Brandix – Katunayake

On 28th October 2025, the first-year undergraduates of the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), University of Moratuwa, undertook an insightful field visit to Brandix at their Katunayake facility.

The visit provided students with valuable exposure to the supply chain operations of one of Sri Lanka's leading apparel manufacturers.

As part of the visit, students were given the opportunity to observe the company's raw material warehouse and understand the end-to-end processes involved in managing materials, production flow, and logistics coordination within the apparel industry.

This experience was particularly enriching for the first-year students, as it allowed them to connect their classroom learning with real-world industry practices at an early stage of their academic journey. The visit to Brandix not only enhanced their understanding of supply chain dynamics but also inspired them to explore future career opportunities in the fields of transport, logistics, and apparel manufacturing.



an informative session explaining their overall production process, along with the supply chain and logistics functions that support it. Students were also given the chance to engage in discussions, ask questions, and clarify their doubts regarding various operational aspects. This industry visit provided students with a comprehensive understanding of real-

world business practices and helped them enhance their Capstone Project ideas with practical perspectives. Overall, it was a highly valuable learning experience that strengthened their knowledge and appreciation of supply chain and logistics management within the apparel manufacturing sector.



Field Visit to CWIT



On the 7th and 14th of October 2025, the final-year undergraduates of the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), University of Moratuwa, undertook an insightful field visit to Colombo West International Terminals (CWIT), one of the most advanced facilities under the Port of Colombo Expansion Project. During the visit, students gained a comprehensive understanding of CWIT's terminal planning and operations, including critical aspects such as berth planning, yard planning, vessel planning, and resource allocation. They were introduced to

CWIT's automation systems and terminal operating technologies such as NAVIS XPS, Expert Decking (ED) strategy, and Prime Route optimisation, which enhance operational efficiency through intelligent container handling and dynamic route assignment. The session also covered key functional areas such as IMDG cargo segregation, vessel scheduling and stowage planning, and automated gate and yard management processes. Students learned how these technologies and processes work together to improve turnaround time, safety, and productivity within the terminal. This visit provided

the undergraduates with invaluable real-world exposure to port and terminal operations, enabling them to connect theoretical supply chain and logistics concepts with actual industrial practices. It also broadened their understanding of port automation, smart logistics, and modern maritime infrastructure, preparing them for future careers in the global logistics and port management sectors.

Clubs & Societies

CIBUM FESTA '25: A Celebration of Flavours, Friendship, and Togetherness

The Building Economics Students' Society (BESS) organised the CIBUM FESTA '25 Food Festival on the 11th of September 2025, transforming the day into a vibrant celebration of flavours and community spirit. Staying true to its Latin name



CIBUM, meaning “food,” the festival showcased an exciting variety of food items that catered to every palate and brought people together through the shared joy of food. More than just a food festival, CIBUM FESTA '25 served as a joyful gathering that



celebrated friendship and togetherness. Students, staff, and members of the wider university community gathered to experience the wide range of food items on offer. The success of the event was driven by the passion, teamwork, and creativity of the student community that organised it. While the aromas and tastes filled the

air, the event carried a deeper purpose. The proceeds from CIBUM FESTA '25 are directed towards supporting BESS's student support and welfare initiatives, contributing to future activities that enhance the well-being and development of students within the department.

Sithuwili 2025: A Celebration of Creativity and Talent at the Department of Building Economics



The Building Economics Students' Society (BESS) successfully organised “Sithuwili 2025”, the fourth edition of its annual celebration, on 27th September 2025 at the Rubert Peiris Auditorium. The event once again showcased a vibrant fusion of art, creativity, and student talent, offering a platform for students of the Department of Building Economics to express their artistic abilities and explore interests beyond academics.

This year's event brought together an inspiring blend of music, dance, performance, and visual arts, reflecting the collective imagination and enthusiasm of the department's student community.

In the lead-up to the event, students were invited to submit their creative works under several categories, including Hand-Drawn and Digital Arts, Photography (Open Device and Mobile), Instrumental Covers, Singing Covers, Dancing Covers, Poetry, Creative Content, and Short Drama. Ahead of the main event, interactive sessions were also organised with the participation of creative professionals from the fields of music, arts, and photography, encouraging students to pursue their artistic interests and refine their skills. After a thorough and competitive selection process, the most outstanding student entries were recognised through the presentation of



awards, where winners in each category were celebrated for their originality and artistic expression. The evening unfolded with a series of live performances, featuring music, singing, and dance that captivated the audience. Adding to the charm of the night, a special performance by the academic staff delighted the crowd and highlighted the strong sense of community within the department. More than just an artistic showcase, “Sithuwili 2025” stood as a celebration of holistic student



development, inspiring participants to discover their creative strengths while fostering collaboration and friendship among peers. The event reaffirmed the department’s commitment to nurturing not only academic excellence but also a well-rounded, expressive, and connected student community.

Annual Sports meet – Tranzports ’25



The Society of Transport and Logistics proudly organized Tranzports 2025, the annual sports meet of the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering, held on 27th September 2025

at the University Ground. As in previous years, the competition was among four spirited houses: Blackbirds, Rail Riders, Jetwing Rebels, and Navigators. Students and staff enthusiastically participated in a range of sporting events, with cricket taking the spotlight on the main day. Prior to the grand event, volleyball and netball matches were successfully conducted. In addition to athletic performance, house decorations, headbands, and overall teamwork were also evaluated by the staff as part of the final scoring. After

an exciting series of events and vibrant displays of team spirit, Blackbirds emerged as the overall champions, while Jetwing Rebels secured the runner-up position. The event featured cricket, volleyball, netball, football, and several fun activities, creating a lively and energetic atmosphere. The presence of department alumni added further enthusiasm and encouragement, making Tranzports 2025 a memorable success for the entire Transport and Logistics community.



Yathra 2025



On October 1, 2025, the Classical Music Society (CMS) of the University of Moratuwa made a historic return to the stage at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre, presenting a breathtaking classical music concert after a long-awaited six years. With nearly 50 orchestral musicians and a 70-member choir, the performance stood as one of the most ambitious productions ever presented by CMS. From the very first note,



the audience was drawn into a world of rich harmonies, emotional storytelling, and musical excellence. The evening became even more special with the presence of esteemed guests from Sri Lanka's music and arts community. Legendary vocalist TM Jayaratne, one of Sri Lanka's most respected musicians, graced the stage with two unforgettable songs, adding depth, nostalgia, and emotional resonance to the night. Renowned violinist Rukshan Gunawardana joined the orchestra for a featured item, delivering a soulful violin performance that captivated the entire hall. Among the distinguished invitees were also Dr. Sujatha Attanayake, a celebrated

vocalist and music icon, and Jayantha Chandrasiri, a prominent filmmaker and dramatist, whose presence further elevated the prestige of the event. The concert was enriched by the graceful artistry of the University Dancing Society, whose performances brought visual expression, cultural richness, and fluid storytelling to selected musical pieces. Their movements seamlessly enhanced the orchestral and choral arrangements, adding a dynamic and captivating dimension to the evening. The stage was transformed into an artistic spectacle, enhanced by immersive 3D visual projections, dynamic colour lighting, and a cinematic atmosphere that elevated

each musical piece to a new dimension. Every visual and lighting cue blended harmoniously with the music, creating a breathtaking multisensory experience for the audience. This concert was a powerful testament to the unwavering dedication of everyone involved. CMS members balanced demanding academic schedules with months of intense rehearsals, bringing their unity, passion, and musical excellence to every orchestral swell and choral harmony. Behind the scenes, countless individuals—musicians, vocalists, dancers, designers, and organisers—worked tirelessly to refine every detail, ensuring the vision came to life with exceptional quality and artistry.

The audience remained captivated throughout the entire performance and responded with overwhelming applause as the final note faded into the hall. It was a moment that celebrated not only the evening's success but also the collective effort, creativity, and passion behind it. The October 1st, 2025, concert stands as a milestone for the Classical Music Society—an unforgettable evening that showcased the heights of talent and creativity at the University of Moratuwa, made even more memorable through the inspiring collaboration of musicians, vocalists, dancers, and honoured guests who shared the stage.



Appointments & Promotions

Professor Ananda Jayawardane – Department of Civil Engineering Appointed as a Director of Prime Lands Residencies PLC



Professor Ananda Jayawardane, a Senior Professor in Civil Engineering and a

former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, has been appointed as an Independent Non-Executive Director of Prime Lands Residencies PLC with effect from 4th September 2025.

Professor Jayawardane is an outstanding academic leader and corporate personality with extensive experience and expertise in corporate governance in public institutions and private corporations in the fields of construction, banking, finance, manufacturing, insurance, IT, education, and science and technology.

He was the Chairman of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC and successfully led the Bank during some of its most challenging times, retiring in April 2024 after serving nine years on its Board of Directors. He

brings expertise in corporate governance, strategy, risk, talent management, technology management, project management, and ESG. He is currently a Non-Executive Director of HNB Assurance PLC and Mother Lanka Foundation, and serves as a member of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee of the Central Bank and the Corporate Governance Committee of Chartered Accountants (CA) Sri Lanka.

Professor Jayawardane's extensive background in academia and industry is expected to contribute significantly to the strategic direction and governance of Prime Lands Residencies PLC.

Retirements /Felicitation Ceremony

Succession Lecture by Prof. Asoka Perera



On October 1st, 2025, Professor Asoka Perera, a distinguished academic and former Head of the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE) at the University of Moratuwa, delivered his succession lecture, marking the conclusion of an illustrious career spanning over four decades in academia.

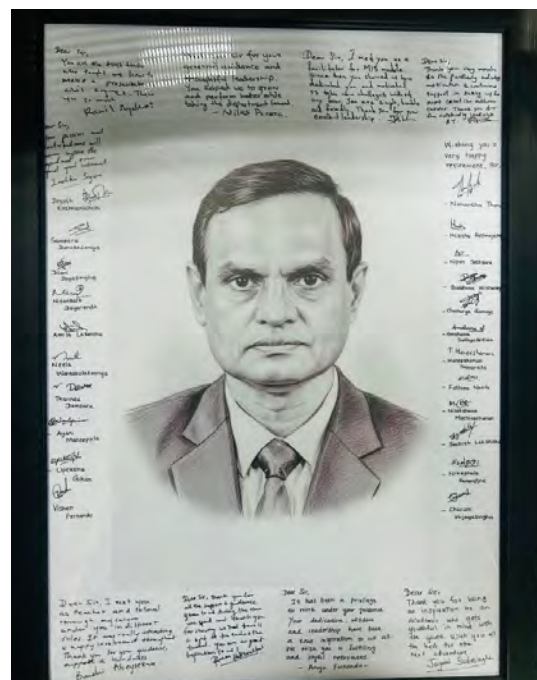
During the lecture, Professor Perera reflected on his professional journey, sharing insights from his past experiences, current developments in the field of transport and logistics, and his vision for

the future of engineering professionals. He highlighted key milestones of his career, challenges and achievements in academia, and the evolving role of engineering and logistics education in addressing modern industry demands.

The event was attended by the Faculty Dean and Heads of Departments (HoDs), many of whom also shared their thoughts and memories, paying tribute to Professor Perera's significant contributions to the University of Moratuwa and the broader academic community.

Throughout his tenure, Professor Perera provided exceptional leadership, guiding the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering towards significant milestones while fostering academic excellence and professional growth among students and staff. Prior to joining TMLE, he served in the Department of Civil Engineering with distinction, contributing immensely to the university's academic development.

As a gesture of appreciation and congratulations, the department presented Professor Perera with a memorable gift, celebrating his remarkable career and enduring legacy. The lecture and associated tributes reflected the profound impact of his 40-plus years of dedicated service, inspiring students, staff, and colleagues alike.



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