



page
06

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page
05



University of Moratuwa
Bimonthly UOM news

2024

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page
13

page
14



- Page 06**
Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations
- Page 07**
Guest Lectures / Talks
- Page 09**
Academic Programs
- Page 10**
Staff Achievements
- Page 11**
Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops
- Page 12**
Clubs & Societies
- Page 13**
Cultural Events
Appointments & Promotions
UOM Alumni
- Page 14**
Sports
Society & Community Responsive Activities
- Page 15**
Retirements /Felicitation Ceremony
- Page 16**
Future Events

Commencement of the Official Duties of the New Year – 2024



The University of Moratuwa commenced its official duties for the New Year on 01st January 2024 with the hoisting of the National Flag followed by the singing of the National Anthem and remembering the war heroes who sacrificed their lives for the motherland.

Subsequently, the academic, administrative and non-academic staff of the University, led by the Vice-Chancellor, took the Oath of Public Servants, setting the tone for a year of commitment and excellence in service. In his New Year address, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. ND Gunawardena extended warm wishes for a prosperous year to all the

staff members and the students. He also expressed heartfelt appreciation for the invaluable service rendered by the former Chancellor, Professor Emeritus KKYW Perera, and conveyed congratulations to the newly appointed Chancellor, Prof. Monte Cassim.

Reflecting on the challenges faced in the past years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recession, the Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the unwavering support of the university staff in navigating these difficulties. Despite financial constraints affecting infrastructure development and other activities, he emphasised the need for continued commitment and enthusiasm to fulfil the vision, mission, and objectives of the University in the coming year.

Concluding his speech, the Vice-Chancellor extended his best wishes to all staff members and students for success in both their professional and personal endeavours. As a highlight of the ceremony, the University honoured forty-nine dedicated members of the academic, administrative, academic support, and non-academic staff who achieved significant milestones in their service. Recipients of the Long Service Awards, having completed 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service, were recognized for their unwavering dedication. Those



who reached the remarkable milestone of 40 years of service were presented with a distinguished plaque, while others

received medals corresponding to their years of committed service. These awards celebrated their enduring contributions

and dedication to the University of Moratuwa, marking a significant moment in their professional journey.

Recipients of Bronze Medal (25 Years of Service)

Prof. TSS Jayawardana
Senior Lecturer SN Niles
Senior Lecturer UA Seneviratne
Senior Lecturer VSC Weragoda
Mrs. AMH Kamala
Mr. HMK Herath
Mrs. GDD Jayasinghe

Mrs. BGSST Gunawardena
Mrs. TN Jayasinghe Arachchi
Mrs. HDP Ranjani
Mrs. PKDCK Panapitiya
Mrs. MSDL Karunathilaka
Mrs. HBR Sajeewani
Mrs. AUA Gunawardena
Mr. BHP Mahendra

Mr. CU Maasakorala
Mrs. IK Athukorala
Mr. D Jayarathne
Mr. MANR De Soysa
Mr. WR Gamini
Mr. HRU Priyantha
Mr. PGC Weeranjeewa





Recipients of Silver Medal (30 Years of Service)

Dr. DP Chandrasekara - Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Prof. (Mrs.) SM Egodage
Prof. EASK Fernando
Prof. ADUS Amarasinghe
Prof. PG Rathnasiri
Prof. SU Adikary
Associate Prof. VSD Jayasena
Dr. AA Pasqual
Dr. (Mrs.) D Nanayakkara
Lecturer AVP Vijith



Lecturer NDS Narangoda
Mrs. LP Perera
Mrs. MAN Renuka
Mr. WMML Warnapriya

Mr. JCP Wickramaratne
Mr. HK Jinadasa
Mrs. RDS Ranwala
Mr. TD Muhandiramge





Recipients of Gold Plated Medal (35 Years of Service)

- Senior Prof. AS Karunananda
- Senior Lecturer AHR Rathnasooriya
- Mrs. ST Hewawasam
- Mrs. SAGK Senanayaka
- Mrs. DLC Dhanawardena
- Mrs. DPMIN Premathilaka



**Recipients of Plaque (40 Years of Service)
[From Cover page]**

- Senior Prof. JMSJ Bandara
- Senior Prof. IRA Weerasekara
- Mr. RAJ Kithsiri



Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

The University of Moratuwa and Collaborative Partners Among the Winners of the 2023 UK Collaborate to Innovate Awards

[From Cover page]

During a ceremony held at the Institution of Civil Engineers UK headquarters in London, on February 29th, 2024, the University of Moratuwa and Access Engineering PLC alongside global academic and industry partners, were awarded the prestigious Collaborate to Innovate Award 2023 by the Engineer Magazine UK. The team won the award after competing in a highly competitive category of “Information, Data and Connectivity” in which there were five shortlisted entries. This award recognized the project “Innovative Pre-Straining Tools and Brillouin Optical Frequency Domain Analysis (BOFDA)

Technology Assessment: A Transnational Leap in Infrastructure Monitoring”. The objective of the project was to address gaps in the current understanding of workmanship factors essential for effective Fibre Optic Monitoring. The collaborative team included universities and industry partners including the Cambridge Centre for Smart Infrastructure and Construction (CSIC), University of Moratuwa, University of Oxford, Access Engineering PLC, Laing O’Rourke Centre - University of Cambridge, fibrisTerre Systems GmbH, University of Qatar, Epsimon Ltd and WSP UK. The new issue of the Engineer magazine highlights

some of the key outcomes of the project. One of its hallmark innovations is in providing first-of-a-kind experimental evidence on the need for pre-straining fibre optic cables in the compression zones and developing a new practical tool for providing pre-strain at the site. This pre-straining approach corrects a critical inaccuracy in the current fibre optic monitoring practice globally. Moreover, the magazine highlights the achievement of the project in the introduction of Fibre Optic Monitoring technology to Sri Lanka and technology transfer through the training of students and engineers.



Research Lounge #19



The 19th Research Lounge organised by the Faculty of Graduate Studies with the

collaboration of the Library, University of Moratuwa was held in hybrid mode on 16th January 2024 at the Boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The Lounge was conducted by Prof. Nadeesh M Adassooriya, Professor, Dept of Chemical & Process Engineering, University of Peradeniya and Ms. Kasun Amali Gunasekara, Research Scholar, Dept of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa. The session was moderated by Dr. Nayani Gunawardena, Senior Assistant

Librarian, Library, University of Moratuwa. The Lounge was successfully completed on the topic “Grit and Growth: The Journey to be a Competent Multidisciplinary Researcher” with the attendance of more than 30 research students and academic staff members.

Archive session is available at:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LQUNcZNes&t=128s>

Guest Lectures / Talks

Guest Talks on “In Pursuit of Professional Advancement and Career Excellence” for Level 04 Undergraduates of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering



On January 05th, 2024, the Department of Earth Resources Engineering and the Earth Resources Engineering Society jointly hosted a two-part guest lecture series for Level 04 undergraduates of the Department at the Textile Auditorium, University of Moratuwa. The first session, titled “The Utilisation of Radio Frequency in Mining Engineering Applications” was delivered by Dr. Nemai Chandra Karmakar, an internationally renowned expert in chipless RFID (Radio-Frequency Identification) and wireless communication engineering, known for his extensive contributions to academia. Currently, he is an Associate Professor at Monash University, Australia. Over the past two decades, Dr. Karmakar has led industry-engaged research at Monash Microwave, Antenna, RFID, and Sensor (MARS) Laboratory, covering diverse fields such as wireless communications, IoT, manufacturing, biomedical engineering,



and logistics. During the session, students had the opportunity to delve into the innovative use of radio frequency technology in the mining industry. His insights into chipless RFID technology and its applications in mining engineering were particularly enlightening.

The second session, “Open Pits, Underground Mines and Tailings Storage Facilities – Geotechnical and Legislative Aspects at Closure in Western Australia” was conducted by Dr. Senaka Welideniya, a

specialist Geotechnical Engineer with over 33 years of experience in both industry and academia, who has held various key roles in Open- Pit and Underground Mining. He has contributed significantly to training Geotechnical Engineers and excels in areas such as Hazard Management, Risk Analysis, Geotechnical Audits, and compliance with mining safety regulations in Western Australia. During the session, Dr. Welideniya emphasised the critical geotechnical aspects linked to the closure of mining operations. He provided valuable insights into the legislative framework governing mining closures in Western Australia and discussed best practices for hazard management and risk analysis throughout the closure phase.

Through these enriching sessions, students gained a comprehensive understanding of cutting-edge applications in mining engineering, from the innovative use of radio frequency technology to the intricate geotechnical and legislative considerations in mine closure. Dr. Karmakar and Dr. Welideniya’s expertise provided students with valuable insights into the latest advancements, challenges, and best practices in these dynamic fields, fostering a culture of knowledge exchange and innovation within the academic and professional communities.

ERE Research Talk on “Successful Completion of Undergraduate Research Project” for Level 04 Undergraduates of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering



A research talk, titled “Successful Completion of Undergraduate Research Projects” was exclusively hosted in hybrid mode for Level 04 undergraduates of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering on February 16th, 2024, at the ERE Seminar Hall. The speaker at this enlightening session was Eng. Pramod Dilshan, an accomplished alumnus of the

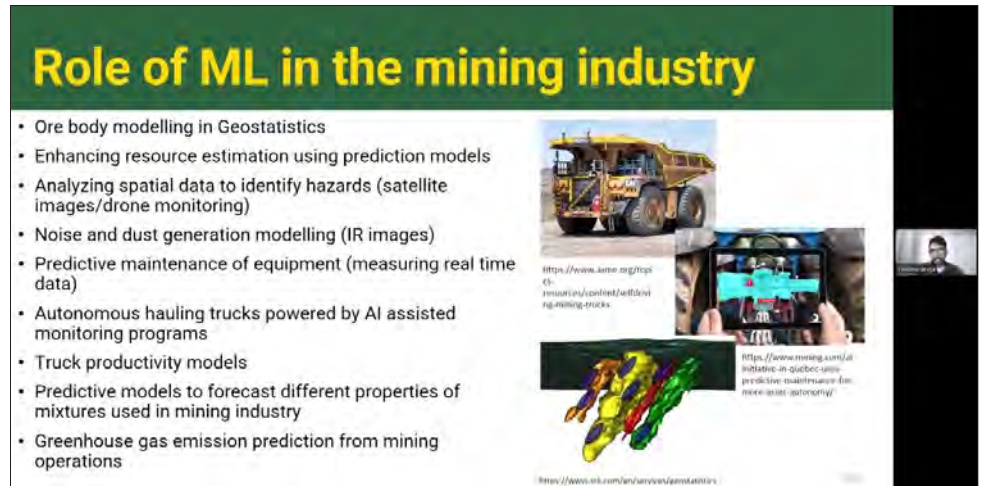
University of Moratuwa, graduating with first-class honours in Earth Resources Engineering in 2022. Eng. Pramod Dilshan, currently pursuing his PhD at the University of Melbourne, Australia, presented an engaging overview of his doctoral research project focussing on “Caprock Integrity during Underground Hydrogen Storage.” His journey from

graduating with first-class honours to securing a full scholarship for doctoral studies is an inspiring testimonial to our graduates’ abilities. During the research talk, Eng. Pramod Dilshan provided a brief yet comprehensive introduction to his PhD research project, offering valuable insights into caprock integrity during underground hydrogen storage. The session yielded a significant impact as Eng. Pramod Dilshan shared his personal experiences from his undergraduate period, offering a relatable perspective for Level 04 undergraduates. Students gained invaluable insights into the research methodology employed by Eng. Pramod, benefitting from both his academic and practical experiences.

Guest Lecture on “Using Machine Learning to Promote Sustainable Mining Practices” for Level 04 Undergraduates of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering

On February 20th, 2024, Level 04 Earth Resources Engineering undergraduates at the University of Moratuwa had the privilege of attending a guest lecture titled “Using Machine Learning to Promote Sustainable Mining Practices” at the ERE Seminar Hall in hybrid mode. The session was conducted by Eng. Chathuranga Jayathilake, a distinguished alumnus of the University of Moratuwa, who graduated with first-class honours in Earth Resources Engineering in 2020 and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree at the University of Alberta, Canada, having successfully completed his master’s degree at the same university in 2023.

Eng. Jayathilake shared comprehensive insights from his master’s research during the session. The focus of his master’s research was on the application of machine learning to guide the mixture designs of cementitious materials. The lecture delved into the significant role of machine



learning in the mining industry, providing students with a deep understanding of the manner in which advanced technologies could be harnessed to promote sustainable mining practices.

One of the key highlights of the session was Eng. Jayathilake’s discussion on graduate studies and scholarships. Drawing from his personal experiences, he provided

valuable insights into the benefits of pursuing higher education, emphasising the opportunities available for students to contribute meaningfully to their fields. This guest lecture proved to be a valuable and enriching experience for the Earth Resources Engineering undergraduates, offering them a glimpse into the exciting possibilities that lie ahead in their careers.

Guest Lecture on Tunneling – “A Journey Through Tunnels Beneath the Atlantic” for Level 04 Undergraduates of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering

On February 27th, 2024, the Department of Earth Resources Engineering had the pleasure of hosting a highly informative guest lecture titled ‘A Journey Through Tunnels Beneath the Atlantic’ for Level 04 undergraduates of the department. The lecture was delivered by Eng. Lahiru Gunasekara, an expert in the field of underground excavation and tunnelling,

serving as a tunnel engineer at Balfour Beatty, Hinkley Point C – England.

During the lecture, Eng. Gunasekara provided a comprehensive overview of tunnelling beneath the water, focussing on geology, excavation, modern equipment and technology in the field, supporting measures, monitoring, and safety aspects.

The guest lecture served as a remarkable platform for undergraduates to gain insights into the latest advancements and challenges in tunnelling. The department looks forward to hosting more informative events in the future, fostering a culture of knowledge exchange and innovation within the academic and professional communities.

Guest Lecture on Project Procurement Cycle by Mr. Prasath Sanjeewa for Final Year Undergraduates



On January 05th, 2024, the Department of Building Economics at the University of Moratuwa hosted a guest lecture tailored for final year Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management undergraduates. Mr. Prasath Sanjeewa, a Project Quantity Surveyor at HBK Contracting Company

W.L.L in Qatar, conducted the session, delving into the intricacies of the “Project Procurement Cycle and Involvement of Quantity Surveyors.” With a Bachelors in Quantity Surveying along with MRICS and MAIQS qualifications, Mr. Sanjeewa brought a wealth of practical knowledge to

the lecture. The focus of the session was on the essential role Quantity Surveyors play in the project procurement process. The engagement of final-year undergraduates was palpable as they gained insights into the practical applications of their field of study. Mr. Sanjeewa shared his experiences, providing a glimpse into the challenges and opportunities awaiting them in the professional realm. The lecture aimed to prepare final-year undergraduates for the practical aspects of their future roles. This session reflects the department’s commitment to providing students with industry-relevant knowledge, paving the way for a seamless transition from academia to the professional world.

Academic Programs

Planning and Design Studio's Efforts in the Revitalisation of Colombo's Neighbourhoods

The urban environment is multi-dimensional, and consists of various interconnected aspects that shape the physical and social spaces where people live, work and interact. Understanding the dimensions of urban design including morphological, perceptual, social, visual, functional and temporal aspects is crucial in assessing the vitality of public spaces and public life. However, achieving a balance among these dimensions remains a challenging task in urban planning.

Against this backdrop, Planning and Design Studio II provided level 01 students in the Department of Town and Country Planning with an invaluable opportunity to hone their skills in conceptualising and interpreting the urban environment. The primary aim of this studio was to enhance students' sensitivity to their surroundings and foster their ability to observe and interpret urban spaces for design purposes.

Students focused on studying various neighbourhoods within the Colombo Municipal Council area, including the

Colombo Town Hall area, Pettah Bus Stand, Fort Railway Station front, Maradana Road, Narahenpita Junction surroundings, Slave Island, and Panchikawatta Junction vicinity. Employing spatial analytical tools such as figure-ground mapping, time series analysis, legibility analysis, streetscape, land use analysis and 3D physical modelling, students explored the multidimensional nature of urban space and documented the social dynamics and characteristics of public life.

The studio project exemplifies a collaborative effort to explore and understand the complexities of urban design, with a focus on creating spaces that reflect and enrich local character, identity, and connectivity within the larger urban context.

This studio project was designed, guided, and supervised by Prof. Jagath Munasinghe, Plnr. Eshi Wijegunaratna, and Archt. Daitha Dharmasena. This studio was conducted from 24th October 2023 to 15th February 2024



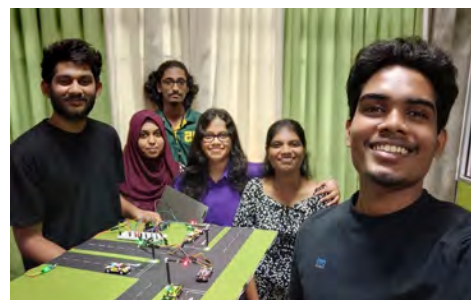
Collaborative Effort Between Department of Town and Country Planning and Land Reform Commission to Develop GIS-Based Land Management System



The Department of Town and Country Planning has partnered with the Land Reforms Commission to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) for improved land management. Mr. Shashika Bandara and Mr. Pradeep Kannagara from the Land Reforms Commission met with members from the Department of Town and Country Planning, including Dr. Amila Jayasinghe, Mr. Niroshan Sanjaya, Dr. Nayomi Kankanamge, and Dr. Emeshi Warusawitana for initial

discussions. The meeting showcased the department's exemplary role in inspiring the Land Reforms Commission on the potential benefits of GIS integration. This collaboration signals a proactive effort to modernise land administration processes and to address land-related challenges effectively. Both parties remain committed to fostering continued collaboration and innovation for successful GIS implementation, promising advancements in land management and reform.

First-Year Town & Country Planning Students Celebrate Success in Geo-Informatics for Planning



First-year students from the Department of Town & Country Planning are jubilant after successfully completing the Geo-Informatics for Planning subject module, marking a significant milestone in their academic journey. As part of the module-end project, they undertook the ambitious task of developing real-time urban monitoring systems, showcasing their dedication and ingenuity. Their efforts resulted in the creation of eight dynamic urban monitoring systems, each tailored to address specific aspects of urban development and management.

Industry Readiness Program for the 22 Intake of the Faculty of Engineering



The Career Guidance Unit, in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering, organised the Industry Readiness Program from 16th to 19th January 2024 targeting interested undergraduates from the 2022 common Engineering Intake. This marks the first iteration of the program which was introduced last year to support the development of essential skills of undergraduates of the Faculty of

Engineering. The program was delivered by the Career Guidance Unit with support from resource personnel representing various departments of the Faculty of Engineering, the University Library as well as graduates from industry to inspire the undergraduate cohort representing different specialisations to craft their future towards success.

From traffic congestion monitoring to noise level assessment, these systems offer real-time insights into critical urban phenomena, empowering decision-makers and planners with actionable information for informed decision-making.



Staff Achievements

Study Uk Alumni Awards Finalist - Culture And Creativity Award



Dr Ayesha Wickramasinghe has been named a finalist for the 'Culture and Creativity' Award at the Study UK Alumni Awards, an event organised by the British Council, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with UK Universities. This award recognises outstanding UK alumni who have left a significant impact in their respective fields. The 'Culture and Creativity' Award specifically acknowledges alumni who have excelled in arts and culture, showcasing their artistic talent, influence, and creativity across various domains such as arts, design, media, video, TV, music, sports, blogging, YouTube, and the humanities. Dr. Wickramasinghe

Career Guidance Session for the 23 Intake of the Faculty of Business



The Career Guidance Unit conducted a special session for the new intake of the Faculty of Business on 09th February 2024.

pursued her studies at the London College of Fashion, University of the Arts, London, from 2007 to 2009, where she obtained a Master of Arts (MA) in Fashion Technology with a specialisation in Women's Wear in 2009. This achievement was made possible through a full scholarship from the Ministry of Textiles, Sri Lanka, aimed at promoting fashion education in the country. Upon her return to Sri Lanka, she completed her doctorate at the University of the Visual and Performing Arts in 2016.

For nearly 18 years, Dr. Wickramasinghe has been dedicated to serving the university, focussing on fashion and textile design within the Fashion Design and Product Development degree program in the Department of Textile and Apparel

Engineering. She graduated from this degree program as a graduate of its inaugural batch in 2005, earning first-class Honours. Dr. Wickramasinghe's publication, 'The Dress of Women in Sri Lanka,' was honoured with the Best Research and Academic Prize at the State Literary Awards in 2022.

Driven by a passion for heritage and a desire to promote Sri Lankan crafts on a global scale, Dr. Wickramasinghe has introduced postgraduate fashion studies, guiding students in their research endeavours. Her efforts underscore her unwavering commitment to advancing education and research in Sri Lanka.

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Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

Empowering Sri Lanka's Tech Enthusiasts: SLIoT Challenge 2023 Workshop Series



The SLIoT Challenge is a competition providing Sri Lankan innovators with support and guidance to showcase and bring to market their innovative Internet of Things (IoT) products. This annual competition is organised by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of the University of Moratuwa in collaboration with Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel (SLTMobitel) and the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL). As part of the ongoing 2023 edition of the competition, two workshops were held for the competitors in January and February.

On January 13th, a workshop for participants in the school category was held at the Rubert Peiris Auditorium in the University

of Moratuwa with the participation of nearly 200 school students from across the country. The workshop covered fundamental topics like Introduction to Microcontrollers and Introduction to IoT, providing a solid foundation and hands-on experience in these areas.

On February 3rd, a workshop for participants in the university and open categories took place at the auditorium of the SLT Mobitel Head Office and engaged more than 100 participants. Workshop discussions led by experts from academia and industry delved into topics ranging from IoT product development and testing to IP/patents and how to launch successful startups.



Soft Skills Workshops for TMLE



A series of Soft Skills development workshops were held from 08th to 19th January 2024 for the 22 Intake undergraduates of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering by the Career Guidance Unit. These interactive sessions were conducted by the Career Guidance

Inaugural Lecture Series #23



The Inaugural lecture of Prof. Bandara Abeysinghe was held on 29th January 2024 at the boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode with 25+ participants.

His inaugural lecture was on the topic "A New Dimension of the Sri Lankan Mineral Industry with Critical Metals, including Rare Earth Elements" which covers all aspects of research findings of his journey to be a professor. At the end of the lecture, he was introduced to the public as a professor together with his academic achievements and contributions to the country and to the university.



Archive of the lecture is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jew1MpzBW8c>

Counsellor, Ms. Anusha Rathnayake with a special emphasis on teamwork and emotional intelligence.



Clubs & Societies

BESS Presents 26th Episode of Sarasavi Gee Sisila: A Night of “Are You Ready ? 2024” Musical Mastery at the University of Moratuwa



On February 23rd, the Sumanadasa Courtyard at the University of Moratuwa came alive with the enchanting melodies of classical music, courtesy of the Building Economics Student Society (BESS) and their presentation of Sarasavi Gee Sisila Episode 26. This captivating musical extravaganza, organised by BESS, showcased a diverse lineup of both seasoned veterans and emerging talent, captivating audiences

with a mesmerising array of performances. Under the patronage of BESS, esteemed classical music luminaries such as TM Jayarathne, Karunarathna Divulgane, Jagath Wickramasinghe, and Nirosha Virajini graced the stage, enthralling attendees with their timeless renditions. Additionally, rising stars including Sanka Dineth and Ridma Weerawardena illuminated the evening with their youthful energy and exceptional talent, adding a fresh and dynamic dimension to the musical landscape.

The 26th episode of Sarasavi Gee Sisila served as a celebration of Sri Lanka’s rich musical heritage, uniting generations through the universal language of melody. BESS’s initiative to host Sarasavi Gee Sisila Episode 26 exemplifies their commitment to enriching campus life and fostering cultural appreciation among students. The event offered a memorable and uplifting experience for all who attended, reinforcing BESS’s dedication to creating vibrant and inclusive cultural experiences within the University of Moratuwa community.



The official career fair of the University of Moratuwa “ARE YOU READY ?” was organised by the Rotaract Club of the University of Moratuwa in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit. The event was marked with various workshops and sessions together with engagement from 49 employers representing multiple disciplines. The main event was held on 28th February 2024 at the Rubert Peiris Auditorium of the university.



Cultural Events

Honouring the Memory of Janith Herath: Dhamma Discussion Organised by the Building Economics Student Society and the Department of Building Economics



In a solemn gathering, the Building Economics Student Society (BESS) and the Department of Building Economics came together to commemorate the life of Janith Herath, a level 04 undergraduate who tragically passed away. A Dhamma discussion was organised to honour his

memory and reflect on the impact he had on the department and its community.

The event provided an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to come together in remembrance and solidarity. Through shared stories and reflections, participants found solace and strength in their collective mourning. The Dhamma discussion served as a means to honour Janith's life and the indelible mark he left on those who knew him.

This gathering stands as a testament to the profound impact Janith had on the department and the enduring bond shared by its members.

Appointments & Promotions

Prof. Ruwan Gopura Appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies

[From Cover page]



Prof. Ruwan Gopura has been appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Moratuwa with effect from 20.01.2024.

Prof. Gopura has been an integral part of the university community since 2010 when he joined as a Senior Lecturer. His journey within the University saw him progress through various key positions, including Professor, Director of Research, and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering as well as Head of the Department of Medical

Technology, Faculty of Medicine. An alumnus of the University of Moratuwa, Prof. Gopura earned his first degree in 2004, followed by a Master's degree from the same University and a PhD from Saga University in Japan.

His contributions extend beyond academia as he has actively engaged in national-level initiatives, such as serving as a resource person for the Ministry of Education since 2011. He has also played significant roles in committees overseeing corporate strategy and quality assurance in the field of education.

He is a senior member of IEEE and served as the Chairperson of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section in 2020 and Chair- IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Sri Lanka Section Chapter (2017 to 2020).

Recognised for his outstanding work, Prof. Gopura has received numerous awards, His research excellence is further underscored by awards such as the Best Paper awards at prominent international conferences. Prof. Gopura holds a number of patents and he has published more than 150 journals and conference articles.

Department of Civil Engineering Thai Pongal Festival Program



The Thai Pongal Festival of the Department of Civil Engineering was held on the 19th of January 2024 from 09.00 am onwards at the Civil Engineering Department premises. The celebration was organised as part of the initiative by the Head of Department, Prof. (Mrs.) Chinthia Jayasinghe, to promote social harmony within the Department. The event was coordinated by Mr. Mayooran Muralimanoharan under the guidance of Prof. (Mrs.) Chinthia Jayasinghe and Dr. K Baskaran. Staff members and postgraduate students of the department were invited to the festival. The event was scheduled with a presentation by Dr. K Baskaran which included the religious perspective of Thai Pongal and provided insights into how Tamil people and Hindus celebrate it.

UOM Alumni

Building Economics Department Receives Generous Video Conferencing System Donation from EXCOM Project Development Consultant

On January 3, 2024, the Department of Building Economics received a valuable donation of a Video Conferencing System from EXCOM Project Development Consultant. The gracious presentation was made by the Chief Executive Officer of EXCOM Consultants, Uthpala Jayaweera, during a ceremony attended



by key executive members, emphasising the strong connection between EXCOM and the department. The ceremony was

graced by other prominent figures from EXCOM Consultants, including Managing Director Ch. QS. Duminda Dissanayaka,

Country Managers Mr. Gayal Kuruppu and Mr. Janaka Nalin, as well as Branch Managers Mr. Nissanka Rajakaruna and Mr. Gayan Ratnayake. These distinguished individuals, all proud products of the Department of Building Economics, showcased their commitment to fostering a stronger bond between the department and the industry.

This generous donation is a commendable contribution enhancing the department's communication capabilities and technological infrastructure. The Department of Building Economics deeply appreciates this thoughtful gesture, recognising the commitment and support demonstrated by EXCOM Consultants towards their alma mater.

Sports

IT Faculty Undergrad Wins Silver at Commonwealth Chess Championships 2024

[From Cover page]



This is to inform you that Miss. Pasindi Yathra Wijesuriya of IT Faculty, University of Moratuwa won the Silver medal at the

Commonwealth Chess Championships 2024 - Women's Event. She scored a total

of 6 points out of the 9 Games to place 2nd among 180 players from 11 countries participated. The Commonwealth Chess Championships 2024 was organized by the Malaysian Chess Federation from 19th to 28th February 2024 at Melaka Malaysia. Sri Lanka National Chess Contingent consists of 31 players participating and 11 medals are claimed by the Sri Lankans. The only player from the university was Miss. Pasindi Yathra Wijesuriya.

Society & Community Responsive Activities

“Guru Gedarta Arunellak 2024” Social Service Campaign Organised by the Earth Resources Engineering Society (ERES)



“Guru Gedarta Arunellak” is a social service campaign organised by the Earth Resources Engineering Society (ERES) of the University of Moratuwa, with a

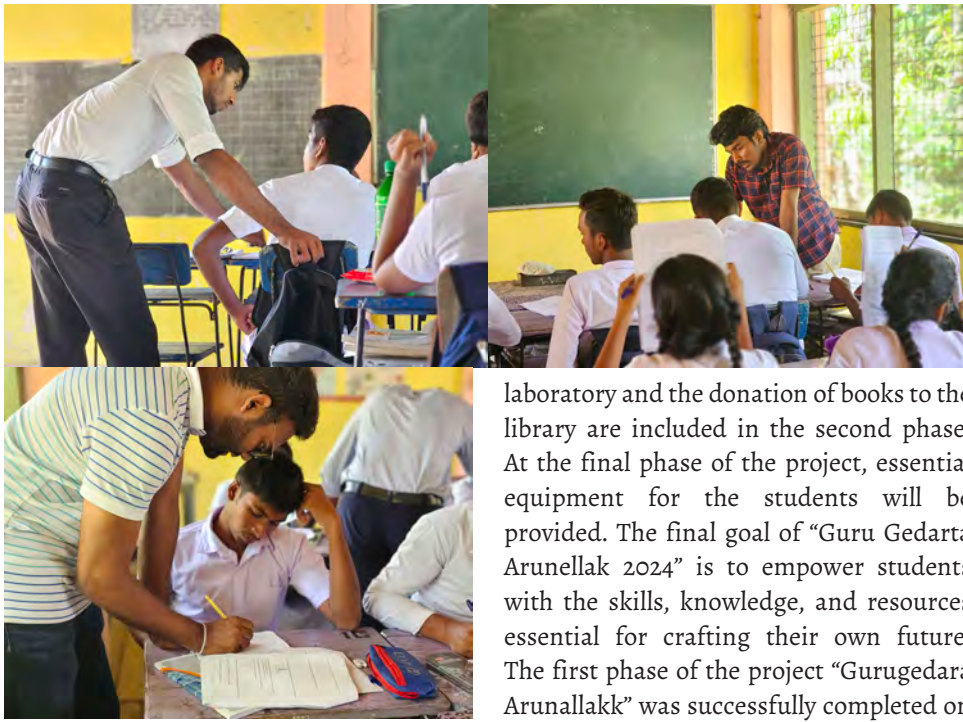
focus on aiding underprivileged schools all over the country to provide a brighter future for students in need. “Guru Gedarta Arunellak 2024” is scheduled to take place from February to March 2024, marking its successful sixth time. The selected school for this year is Pagnnagula Maha Vidyalaya located at Thummodara, Avissawella in the Colombo district. The total number of students is 137, from grades one to eleven. This social project will be executed in three main phases. The first phase includes seminars and motivational sessions. The renovation of the school computer

QSUM Funds Construction of Security Grilles for New Building (Phase II) of Building Economics Department

In a commendable display of generosity, the Quantity Surveyors of the University of Moratuwa (QSUM) have funded the design and construction of security grilles for Phase II of the New Building. Recognising the essential need for enhanced security, QSUM's contribution plays a vital role in safeguarding the furniture and equipment within the building.

The provision of security grilles addresses a crucial necessity, ensuring the protection of valuable assets within the New Building Phase II. The department acknowledges the thoughtful gesture by QSUM, emphasising the significance of such contributions in improving facilities and providing a secure environment for both furniture and equipment.

The Department of Building Economics values its partnership with QSUM, recognising the positive impact their donation has on enhancing the overall experience for undergraduates. This act of generosity not only fortifies the security infrastructure but also contributes significantly to creating a conducive learning and working environment within the department. The department extends its sincere gratitude to QSUM for their commitment to the improvement and advancement of facilities, ensuring a better academic experience for all.



laboratory and the donation of books to the library are included in the second phase. At the final phase of the project, essential equipment for the students will be provided. The final goal of “Guru Gedarta Arunellak 2024” is to empower students with the skills, knowledge, and resources essential for crafting their own future. The first phase of the project “Gurugedara Arunallakk” was successfully completed on

10,11,17 and 18 February 2024. The seminar sessions were conducted by five students of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering. The primary objectives of these sessions were to enhance the students’ knowledge through seminar sessions, motivate them to foster a desire for education and to create awareness among them about the importance of education, all of which were successfully achieved.

The second phase of the project is scheduled for 16, 17, 23, and 24 March 2024. The final event of the project will be held with the participation of lecturers and students of the Department of Earth Resource Engineering at the end of March 2024. On the final day, the new computer lab will be officially opened, and all students will be provided with school uniforms.

Retirements /Felicitation Ceremony

Farewell Lecture and Felicitation Ceremony of Prof. Anura Nanayakkara and Prof. Ruwan Weerasekera at the Department of Civil Engineering



Prof. Anura Nanayakkara and Prof. Ruwan Weerasekera retired from their dedicated service to the University of Moratuwa on 30th September 2023. A farewell ceremony was held on 19th January 2024 at the Department of Civil Engineering to felicitate the retirement of these two remarkable individuals.

An alumnus of the University of Moratuwa, Prof. Nanayakkara counts over forty years of uninterrupted service to the University, in the fields of teaching, research and consultancy. Prof. Nanayakkara served as the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering from 2013 to 2016. It was

during his tenure as the Head that the Department of Civil Engineering obtained full accreditation from the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka for its undergraduate degree which granted recognition among the Washington Accord signatories. Prof. Nanayakkara’s research is in the area of Concrete Technology focusing on the use of alternative ingredients used in making concrete, mitigation of early-age thermal cracking, and durability of concrete. The research carried out by Prof. Nanayakkara and his collaborators has vastly impacted the Sri Lankan construction industry. Prof. Nanayakkara has contributed immensely to the development of national

standards relating to building materials over the past 25 years having served and chaired working groups and sectoral committees of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution. His expertise was sought by the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) where his shared knowledge, skills, and experience have enabled their research teams to achieve tangible outcomes, including a patent on a highly permeable and energy absorbing paving block made from polyester spandex fabric waste where he is one of the

three inventors.

An alumnus of the University of Moratuwa, Prof. Weerasekera counts over forty years of uninterrupted service to the University, in the fields of teaching, research, administration and consultancy. Prof. Weerasekera served as the Head of the Building and Structures Division/Research Group of the Civil Engineering Department from 2013 to 2021. His research is in the areas of bridge engineering, computational mechanics, and analysis of concrete structures. He was a very active member of the Society of

Felicitation Ceremony for the Retirement of Emeritus Prof. IRA Weerasekera



A felicitation ceremony was held at the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Engineering on 04th January 2024 to recognise the long and invaluable services of Emeritus Prof. IRA Weerasekera from the Department of Civil Engineering. Prof. (Mrs.) C Jayasinghe, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering delivered a speech appreciating his commendable service. Faculty wishes long life and happiness to the renowned academic member on his retirement.

Felicitation Ceremony for the Retirement of Emeritus Prof. KAMK Ranasinghe



A felicitation ceremony to recognise the long and invaluable services of Emeritus Prof. KAMK Ranasinghe from the Department of Civil Engineering was held at the Faculty Board of Faculty of Engineering on 01st February 2024. Prof. (Mrs.) C Jayasinghe, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering delivered a speech appreciating his commendable service. Faculty wishes long life and happiness to the renowned academic member on his retirement.

Former Heads of the Department of Building Economics Celebrated at Unveiling Ceremony



A Portrait Unveiling Ceremony took place at the Department of Building Economics Board Room on January 03, 2024, dedicated to acknowledging the unwavering services rendered by Former Heads of Department. The ceremony, a testament to their significant contributions, saw the unveiling of portraits for Prof. Yasangika Sandanayake and Ch. QS. Dr. Suranga Jayasena.

The event was a poignant tribute, acknowledging the unwavering dedication and exemplary leadership demonstrated by these individuals within the Department of Building Economics. The unveiling of their portraits signifies a timeless homage to their dedication and indispensable contributions that have propelled the department's success and advancement.



The Department extends its sincere gratitude to Prof. Yasangika Sandanayake and Ch. QS. Dr. Suranga Jayasena for their exemplary service. The Portrait Unveiling Ceremony not only honours their legacies but also serves as a source of inspiration for the current and future members of the department, embodying the spirit of continuous dedication and excellence.

Structural Engineers Sri Lanka and held many positions such as Assistant Secretary (1992/1994), Honorary Secretary (1997/2001 and 2003/2004), Vice-President, and finally, President (2012/2015). Further, he was the President of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (Section C) Engineering, Architecture and Surveying in 2008. He was a kind, strict, disciplined and methodical person, who had shown administrative ability and leadership, by serving dedicatedly as Director of Quality Assurance (2006/2009) of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

All the academic and non-academic staff members at the Department of Civil Engineering wish the retired Professors a very happy retirement life filled with happiness and good health.

Future Events

ChemEIcon 2004, 01st International Research Conference on Chemical and Process Engineering



The Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa, is currently organising the

01st international research conference, ChemEIcon 2004, under the theme "Chemical and Process Engineering for a Sustainable Future: Transformative Pathways for Circular Economy," scheduled for 27th June 2024. ChemEIcon 2004 aims to gather the latest advancements and innovations in the fields of chemical engineering, science and technology with a specific focus on fostering sustainable economic growth, uplifting principles of circular economy, utilisation of untapped local raw materials for value addition and addressing pressing issues associated with the current economic crisis. Paper submissions and registrations are now open for ChemEIcon 2024. Further information can be accessed by visiting the official conference website at <https://www.chemeicon.com/>

Call for papers

10th International Conference on Cities, People, Places

ICCPP 2024

Resilient Cities; Enabling conditions for life to thrive

November 08th-09th, 2024
Colombo, Sri Lanka

ICCPP invites you to propose papers to be presented related to the theme and the sub themes suggested. ICCPP 2024, will be an exciting intellectual event for the academics and practitioners of Urban Design and Cities, through which ideas could be shared and knowledge could be enriched. Paper proposals related to other humanistic, economic, social and technological issues of the cities are also welcome.

• **Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 30th April, 2024**
Email to: iccpp@uom.lk

KEY DATES

- Confirmation of acceptance of Abstracts: 15th May, 2024
- Full Paper Submission: 30th June, 2024
- Review Comments: 25th July, 2024
- Final Paper Submission: 25th September, 2024
- Conference dates: 08th - 09th November, 2024

www.iccpp.lk

Organised by the Centre for Cities & the Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

MERCon 10TH ANNIVERSARY

MORATUWA ENGINEERING RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2024

8th - 10th August 2024
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

University of Moratuwa,
Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

As MERCon 2024 organizing committee, we invite proposals for workshops with the aim of exposing our participants to expert knowledge and the opportunity to discuss novel trends and scientific contributions in all engineering disciplines. We strongly encourage the workshops to be highly interactive and in high demand. It is preferred to have foreign collaborators.

Proposal details

Proposals are limited to no more than five pages and should contain the following information:

- Organizers' names, affiliations, and email addresses with one person identified as the primary contact person.
- Description of the workshop in terms of abstract, objectives, goals, relevance to Engineering discipline and expected outcomes
- Motivation for why MERCon 2024 workshop on this topic will be effective
- Description of target audience, estimated number of participants, and how the participants will be attracted
- Workshop duration, format, activities, and schedule
- List of program committee members and their short biographies describing relevant of qualifications and experience
- Preliminary list of invited speakers (if any) and their brief profiles

Evaluation criteria

All workshop proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria

- Relevance of the workshop to the engineering disciplines
- Interest in the community on the important technical topic of concern
- Novelty concerning other conference forums
- Likelihood of strong participation
- Strength of the profile of researchers Confirmation program committee members
- Profiles of the keynote speaker or a tutorial presenter
- Letters of support from colleagues/researchers indicating their interest and intent to participate in this workshop

Deadline: 05th May 2024

Submit your proposals to the Workshop Chair below:
Dr. Thushara Subasinghe: thusharas@uom.lk

ISERME 2024

International Symposium on Earth Resources Management & Environment

2nd and 3rd September, 2024
Sapporo, Japan

Hybrid Mode Participation free

ISERME 2024, is an eminent stage for academics, researchers, industries, professionals, alumni, and individuals representing Earth Resources Engineering and Mining, providing expertise space to,

- unveil outcomes of contemporary research of the field,
- extend the network beyond,
- expand the spectrum of future research
- open up new innovation ideas,

aiming for sustainable development goals.

Abstract Themes

- Mining, Tunnel Engineering and Rock Blasting
- Engineering Geology, Geochemistry, and Geotechnical Engineering
- Mineral Exploration and Groundwater Studies
- Mineral Processing and Value Addition
- Ocean Resources Engineering and Petroleum Engineering
- Sustainable Resources
- Disaster, Resources Management and Environment Engineering

Important Dates

Deadline for abstract – 25. 04. 2024
Notice of Acceptance – 10. 05. 2024
Full paper submission – 30. 05. 2024
Notification of correction – 05. 07. 2024
Final submission – 30. 07. 2024

Click to Download Abstract Template

Symposium – 2nd September 2024
Field visit – 3rd September 2024

***Abstract stick to 350 word limit should be submitted via ISERME2024@eng.hokudai.ac.jp

ISERME2024@eng.hokudai.ac.jp +81-11-706-7274 Hokkaido University, Japan

Division of Sustainable Resources Engineering, Hokkaido University, Japan.

Department of Earth Resources Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

<https://mercon.uom.lk/>

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ERU Engineering Research Unit
University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka

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MORATUWA ENGINEERING RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2024

8th - 10th August 2024
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

University of Moratuwa,
Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

CALL FOR PAPERS

MERCon 2024 is the 10th International Conference organized by the Engineering Research Unit, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. We welcome research papers on a broad range of research themes, including both theoretical and applied research. The following engineering-related disciplines are the focus of the research papers that will be presented at MERCon 2024

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

| | |
|---|---|
| • Air, Maritimes, & Public Transport | • Hydraulics Engineering |
| • Apparel Production Engineering | • Industrial Engineering |
| • Applied Statistics | • Interdisciplinary Applications of Engineering |
| • Automation Engineering | • Mechatronics & Micromechatronics |
| • Biomedical Engineering | • Metallurgical Engineering |
| • Ceramic Engineering | • Micro/Nano Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS/NEMS) |
| • Chemical Engineering | • Mineral Exploration |
| • Civil Engineering | • Mining Engineering |
| • Climate Modeling | • Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy |
| • Composite Materials | • Nano Science & Technology |
| • Computer Vision and Image Processing | • Numerical Methods In Engineering |
| • Construction Management | • Ocean Resources Engineering |
| • Control Systems | • Petroleum Engineering |
| • Data science and Artificial Intelligence | • Polymer Engineering |
| • Design & Manufacturing Engineering | • Quality Management |
| • Electrical Machines & Solid State Drives | • Robotics and Intelligent Systems |
| • Electrical Power | • Signal Processing |
| • Electronic Engineering | • Software Engineering and Cloud Computing |
| • Energy & High Voltage Engineering | • Structural Engineering |
| • Engineering Mathematics & Statistics | • Supply Chain & Logistics |
| • Engineering Related HR & Marketing Management | • Technical Textiles |
| • Entrepreneurship & Innovation | • Technology Management |
| • Environmental Engineering | • Telecommunication Systems |
| • Fashion Design & Product Development | • Textile Process Engineering |
| • Fluid & Energy Engineering | • Thermodynamics |
| • Food & Biochemical Engineering | • Transport and Logistics |
| • Geotechnical Engineering | • Transportation Engineering |

IMPORTANT DATES

Special session proposal submission: 22nd March 2024
Workshop proposal submission: 5th May 2024
Paper submission deadline: 5th April 2024
Acceptance notification: 30th June 2024
Camera ready paper submission and registration: 20th July 2024
Conference: 8th-10th August 2024

Please follow the paper template at <https://www.ieee.org/conferences/publishing/templates.html>

Submit your paper at: <https://edas.info/N32170>

<https://mercon.uom.lk/>

Organized by:

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