



page 18



page 03



page 06



page 21



page 02



page 18

page 24



page 20

page 22



page 25



page 20



page 08

page 21



University of Moratuwa

Bimonthly UOM news

2023

November - December
Volume: 12
Issue: 06
ISSN: 2279-2023

Commemorating 50 Years of Excellence: University of Moratuwa Unveils Special Stamp and First Day Cover

[From Cover page]

- Page 10**
Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations
Academic & Industry Collaboration
- Page 12**
Guest Lectures / Talks
- Page 14**
Conferences & Symposia
- Page 16**
Foreign Visits
- Page 18**
Student Achievements
- Page 22**
Staff Achievements
Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops
- Page 23**
Clubs & Societies
Cultural Events
- Page 24**
Appointments & Promotions
Sports
- Page 25**
UOM Alumni
Retirements / Felicitation Ceremony
- Page 26**
Extra-Curricular Activities



university. Representatives from the Postal Department, including Mr. Ruwan Sathkumara, Postmaster General, Mr. DA Rajitha K Ranasinghe, Deputy Postmaster General (Operations), and Mr. Lanka de Silva, Director of the Philatelic Bureau, added to the significance of the occasion. The first First-Day-Cover was offered to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. DP Chandrasekara by the Postmaster General Mr. Ruwan Sathkumara.

On 13th December 2023, the Philatelic Bureau of Sri Lanka issued a commemorative stamp marking 50 years of excellence and the remarkable journey of the University of Moratuwa.

Emeritus Professor PKS Mahanama, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa and the Chairman of the Special Committee for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the University of Moratuwa delivered the welcome speech and presented copies of the valuable Golden Jubilee Publication of the University of Moratuwa to the key figures of the Postal Department and the Philatelic Bureau. The event also featured a presentation by Dr. Mrs. Sumanthri Samarawickrama, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Integrated Design and a Member of the Special Committee for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, who explained the intricate

Established as the 'Ceylon College of Technology (CCT)' at Katubedda, the University earned its university status as the 'Katubedda Campus' of the University of Ceylon on 15th February 1972.

The event took place in the prestigious Auditorium of the Postal Headquarters and was graced by the presence of Dr. D.P. Chandrasekara, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, along with other esteemed officers and senior staff members of the



50th Anniversary Stamp



First Day Cover



process of the stamp's design, from concept to launch. The design process of the commemorative stamp began in February 2022 with a competition held for designing the 50th Anniversary logo, as well as a postal stamp that captures the essence of the prestigious university.

Several entries were received in response and the University acknowledges the creativity and effort of all participants. The design of the stamp required uniqueness, leading to the formation of a dedicated design team from the university.

The key elements on the stamp are , the Sumanadasa Building - the oldest and one of the most iconic buildings in the University of Moratuwa, Graduates - representing the invaluable knowledge that the University has produced over the years, the 50th anniversary logo - representing five decades of excellence, and icons - signifying the vision of the University and its futuristic approach as a technology-based University.

Mr. Aruna Welagedara from the Department of Architecture, worked on the illustrations of the iconic Sumanadasa building. The digital illustrations follow the quality of pen and watercolour drawings, a visual style unique to architectural drawings. Ms. Erangi Senavirathne from the Department

of Integrated Design illustrated other architectural elements such as the tennis court, Gymnasium, Open Air Theatre and surrounding landscape used on the folder, in the same visual style. The graduates representation was in a realistic style that compliments the architectural drawings, as well as in a bolder flat graphic style as a way to bring modernity to the stamp. Mr. Sudeep Sansika from the Department of Integrated Design worked on the icons denoting the technical university. Ms. Samudra De Silva from the Department of Integrated Design, worked on adding a dynamic feel to the stamp design through the logo and overall graphical composition. This was achieved through colour gradients representing the colours of the Faculties of the University. The bold yet subtle colours used on the logo and the horizontal borders on the stamp make it stand out from stamps with traditional white borders. Dr. Mrs. Sumanthri Samarawickrama, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Integrated Design was responsible for the creative direction of the design process of the stamp and assured an unconventional outcome. The stamp was finalized only after a 06-month long process and several reviews between the design team, the University and the Philatelic Bureau. Accompanying the stamp, the first-day

cover and a special cancellation mark was designed. An elegant folder especially designed to hold the stamp and the first-day cover makes it a souvenir for all. The folder design was awarded at Global Print Awards 2023 as an entrée by Printcare (pvt) Ltd. As much as the Golden Jubilee stamp serves as a modest monument of 50 years of excellence of the University of Moratuwa, it is receiving attention as a trailblazing product in the history of philatelic production of Sri Lanka. It is designed to stand out from the conventional stamps, with the mindful use of colour, balanced composition, visual consistency through the range of products, and the overall pleasing uncluttered aesthetic, resembling the standards of products in the global philatelic market. Most importantly it is deemed noteworthy by scholars, philatelists, stamps designers and artists alike as it can be studied as a unique example of how mindful design, co-creation and creative leadership can lead to an outstanding product, especially in commemorative stamps which are considered as monuments of history, society and culture. The stamp will be displayed at the National Postal Museum and available for purchase from the Philatelic Bureau of Sri Lanka.

44th General Convocation of the University of Moratuwa

[From Cover page]



The 44th General Convocation of University of Moratuwa (UoM) was held on 20th and 21st December 2023 with all its glory and pride at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in six sessions. The Chancellor of the University, Professor Monte Cassim presided the Convocation Ceremony which was attended by the graduands with their parents, distinguished invitees, as well as the academic and administrative staff of

the University. A total of 2156 accomplished graduands, showcasing remarkable potential to challenge and inspire, were conferred degrees and diplomas across various fields, including engineering, architecture, information technology, and business. Notably, approximately 23% of them achieved postgraduate levels, including 10 individuals who earned their Ph.D. degrees. The graduates of the University of Moratuwa are highly

sought-after by both public and private sector employers. The university's degree programmes hold internationally recognized accreditation from various accreditation bodies, positioning them qualitatively on par with offerings from the world's premier universities.

To share the momentous occasion with a wider audience, the event was broadcasted live on Peo TV (PeoTV Channel 120, Event

TV Plus) and on the university's official website (www.uom.lk), allowing interested viewers to witness the Convocation proceedings.

Faculty	First Degree	Postgraduate Degree/Diploma
Engineering	928	340 (including 7 PhDs)
Architecture	346	90 (including 2 PhDs)
Information Technology	296	48 (including 1 PhD)
Business	92	16



The following Doctoral students were awarded PhDs at the General Convocation 2023

Ms. Dushyanthi Vidanagama

Multiti-Agent based Big Data Analytics using Ontological Modeling and Fuzzy Logic for Deceptive Consumer Review Detection.

Supervisors: Dr. (Mrs.) ATP Silva, Snr. Prof. AS Karunananda

Dept: Computational Mathematics

Faculty : Information Technology



The credibility of online reviews significantly impacts the company's reputation. Consumer reviews are produced at a high volume, velocity, and degree of unstructured. There is a research challenge in designing an effective deceptive review detection mechanism without focusing on classifications with labelled datasets in real-time. This research combines review-centric and reviewer-centric features in the feature selection stage and finds the deceptive level of each review based on those features without focusing on classification. The purpose of this research is to support the deceptive review detection process to automate complex tasks such as real-time data acquisition, feature selection, and calculating deceptive levels by ensuring high accuracy with the support of Multi-Agent Technology, Ontological Modeling, and Fuzzy Logic. The ultimate goal is to create **an assured customer who will boost the business's revenue by expanding purchases because of the trustful and reliable reviews.**

Mr. Prabod Munasinghe

Developing a toolkit to incorporate environmental improvements into the fashion design process

Supervisors: Dr. DGK Dissanayake , Prof. Angela Druckman

Dept: Textile and Apparel Engineering

Faculty : Engineering



The fashion industry is a crucial driver of the global economy, but it employs significant environmental strain due to resource consumption, waste generation, and various emissions to air, water, and land. The mass-market segment, characterized by high production volumes and low prices, raises sustainability concerns. There is a growing call for the industry to address these issues early in the product development process. Despite various initiatives, progress has been limited. **This study presents a user-friendly toolkit for mass-market fashion designers, enabling eco-conscious decision-making in design and product development.** Through a mixed-method approach, a decision support toolkit was developed by integrating a comprehensive database of environmental impact data. The toolkit, a web-based application, offers environmental impact data processing, eco-friendly decision support protocols, and an intuitive user interface. Fashion designers validated its effectiveness, affirming its role in promoting sustainable design choices to support SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Mr. Geeth Priyankara

Title of the thesis. Modeling the Medium Access Control Layer Performance of Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything Mode 4 and IEEE 802.11p

Supervisors: Dr. Tharaka Samarasinghe, Dr. Jussi Haapola

Dept: Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering

Faculty : Engineering



Vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communication has the potential to reduce vehicle collisions, congestion, fuel consumption, and pollution by wirelessly sharing vehicle information. This technology is crucial for intelligent transport systems, with IEEE 802.11p and cellular-V2X (C-V2X) as key contenders. The research employs discrete-time Markov chain (DTMC) models to evaluate these technologies at the medium access control (MAC) layer. It focuses on IEEE 802.11p and C-V2X Mode 4, assessing their performance with periodic and event-driven messages. IEEE 802.11p offers a lower average delay, while C-V2X Mode 4 excels in collision resolution and achieves higher throughput. The study extends to support four multi-priority data streams vital for quality of service (QoS). IEEE 802.11p maintains fairness among data streams, while C-V2X's higher delay negatively affects low-priority streams. **The research proposes an approach for allocating multiple candidate single-subframe resources (CSRs) per vehicle based on the number of vehicles, demonstrating reduced delay with minimal packet collision impact.**

Mr. Suranga Jayasena

Framework of Understanding for BIM Adoption in a BIM Infant Industry. Case of Sri Lanka

Supervisors: Prof. Kanchana Perera, Assoc. Prof. Niraj Thurairajah, Prof. Chitra Weddikara

Dept: Building Economics

Faculty : Architecture



The Affordance-Led Framework of Understanding (AFU) is a structured approach developed to assist in the adoption of innovations like Building Information Modelling (BIM). Unlike traditional innovation models that primarily focus on the innovation itself, the affordance-led perspective emphasizes the interplay between the user and the innovation. **The AFU provides a unified, interconnected framework for comprehending the status and dynamics of affordances within a user's BIM adoption context.** By utilizing the AFU, adopters can assess their position in the BIM adoption process at any given point and develop strategies to realize the expected dynamics of affordances, ensuring the successful integration of BIM or making informed decisions to withdraw from their BIM adoption efforts. As innovation continues to reshape industries, the insights offered by the AFU will play a vital role in facilitating informed decision-making and promoting the diffusion of innovation across diverse sectors.

Mr. Asitha Kulasekera

Development of a Soft Linear Actuator to Use in Wearable Assistive Exosuits

Supervisors: Dr. Damith Chathuranga, Prof. Ruwan Gopura, Thilina Lalitharatne

Dept: Mechanical Engineering

Faculty : Engineering



Exosuits (cloth-like wearable, assistive devices) with thin, low-profile, and lightweight actuators **have the potential to revolutionize assistive technology for the elderly, obese, and patients with neuromuscular skeletal diseases.** This research developed two types of soft, linearly contractile actuators, ThinVAc and LPVAc, designed to provide high forces to move the respective limb while being lightweight and flexible. The ThinVAc, weighing only 0.75 g, can lift a 500 g load, while the LPVAc, weighing 14 g, can lift a 4kg weight, similar to and above the capabilities of human muscles. These actuators have been tested in wearable applications, such as a knee rehabilitation assist device and a mono-articular sit-to-stand transition assist exosuit, showing promising results in helping the wearer. The research aims to integrate these actuators into a wide range of assistive devices, including knee or ankle braces, exoskeletons, and prosthetics, to enhance mobility for those in need.

Dr. Sampath Abeygunasekara

Development and Validation of a Novel CFRP/Steel Hybrid Crack Repairing Technique for the Steel Structure

Supervisors: Prof. JCPH Gamage, Prof. S fawzia

Dept: Civil Engineering

Faculty : Engineering



The crack stop hole (CSH) technique could be considered as an emergency repairing technique to extend the fatigue life of a cracked steel structures that is quick, simple and economic. Carbon fiber reinforce polymer (CFRP) materials have become popular due to its light weight, corrosion resistivity, fatigue resistivity and high tensile features. Therefore, **this study proposes a CSH technique combined with a CFRP strengthening method to acquire the lost capacity due to fatigue in old structures.** A hydro-electric controlling fatigue loading apparatus was designed and fabricated as an initiation to this research study. A numerical model was developed using finite element model (FEM) and results were validated using the laboratory test results. This investigation reported the strength gains with CFRP; which is in the range of 32 % to 45 %. This investigation recommended by CFRP strengthened technique has significantly enhanced fatigue bearing capacity of structural members with CSH. Design guidelines are developed for practical implementations.

Dr. Harshini Mallawaarachchi

An Investigation into Optimising Water Flow of Industrial Symbiosis. Development and Application of a Model

Supervisors: Prof. Yasangika Sandanayake, Dr. Gayani Karunasena, Prof. Chunlu Liu
Dept: Building Economics
Faculty : Architecture



The deficiencies in planning and evaluation of Industrial Symbiosis (IS)-based water sharing networks emphasise the need to have a standardised way to assess the optimum water flow of IS. Thus, the current study aimed to develop a model to assess the optimum water flow of IS. Based on the key literature reviewed, **the conceptual model was developed by integrating mathematical formulae based on single objective optimisation and mixed integer linear programming (MILP) approaches.** In Phase II, the conceptual model and mathematical formulae were refined to the selected context of Sri Lanka. The assessment model was developed and tested using SageMath software. The applicability and feasibility of the model were then evaluated during Phase III. The current study's optimisation model, developed by considering the objective of reducing freshwater consumption of the industrial symbiosis network through maximum wastewater recovery, underpins the novelty of this research. Furthermore, the variables, functions and formulae embedded in the conceptual model create a unique foundation for assessing the optimum water flow of IS networks, thus contributing to new knowledge on industrial symbiosis.

Mr. Kengatharaiyer Sarveswaran

A Deep Syntactic Parser for the Tamil Language.

Supervisors: Prof. Gihan Dias, Prof. Miriam Butt
Dept: Computer Science and Engineering
Faculty : Engineering



Natural Language Processing (NLP) revolutionises digital communication by enabling computers to interpret human language, thereby powering AI and a variety of everyday applications, including voice assistants and language translation services. Syntactic parsers, crucial in NLP applications, uncover syntactic relationships between words in sentences and facilitate mapping to structures such as trees or graphs. Tamil, a language with scarce NLP resources, poses challenges due to its intricate morphosyntactic properties. Conventional language-agnostic parsers perform poorly with Tamil, highlighting the necessity for specialised tools. **This study focused on the development of the first grammar-driven syntactic parser for Tamil using Lexical-Functional Grammar, alongside a data-driven parser utilising the Universal Dependencies framework.** Furthermore, a comprehensive set of tools, including a part-of-speech tagger, a morphological analyser cum generator, pre-processing tools, and treebanks, has been developed. Additionally, insights into various linguistic aspects of the language are offered in this study, contributing significantly to its broader understanding.

Ms. Tushara Nimali Perera

Restoration of Ancient Tank Systems in Ruhunu Rata with Enhanced Adaptive Capacity for Water Security

Supervisors: Dr. TMN Wijayaratna, Prof. JMA Manatunge, Prof. Tilak Priyadarshana
Dept: Civil Engineering
Faculty : Engineering



Restoring abandoned ancient village tanks has been identified as an adaptation option to climate change. However, a lack of understanding of storage behaviour and the hydrological principle behind the building series of bunds in cascades has resulted in restoring individual tanks with different levels of water security and low flood resilience. This study investigated restoration potential of village tanks for water security using monthly storage state data of 580 tanks over three water years. The developed five-storage state model reveals the high temporal variation of storage behaviour while indicating a higher potential for providing other ecosystem services. The hypothesis developed and tested with HEC-HMS model reveals **the hydrological principle behind the formation of tank cascades as the technique used to store water safely by regulating peak inflows.** Conceptual and decision-making frameworks developed with multidimensional and transdisciplinary approaches incorporating **design-level strategic considerations ensure developing village tank cascades as sustainable social-ecological systems.**

Mr. Buddhika Weerasinghe

Behaviour of in Plane and out of Plane Curved Steel Beams Strengthened with Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymers (CFRP)

Supervisors: Prof. Kumari Gamage, Dr. Sabrina Fawzia, Prof. David Thambiratnam
Dept: Civil Engineering
Faculty : Engineering



Application of curved steel members in constructions have shown an increasing demand during the last few decades not only due to the aesthetic appearance, but also some structural advances. These curved steel beams need retrofitting due to many reasons. **Among many methods available to retrofit steel structures, CFRP became popular within the industry during the last decade due to many of its favourable properties.** The first stage of the study focused on the behaviour of CFRP strengthened in plane curved circular hollow sections under flexural loading and the main findings revealed that CFRP wrapping length, layer orientation, and number of CFRP layers are the major contributing factors in strength gain of strengthened beams. The second stage of the study focused on the flexural performance of out of plane curved I beams strengthened with CFRP and CFRP application profiles, **CFRP length and number of CFRP layers were identified as the main contributing factors for ultimate strength.**

University of Moratuwa felicitates the Outstanding Research Performances

[From Cover page]



The University of Moratuwa held its research awards ceremony for the recognition of Outstanding Research Performances of 2021 on December 06, 2023. The event was held in parallel with Research Week 2023 of the University, under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Niranjana Gunawardena. The ceremony, graced with the presence of officers of the university and award-winning academic staff members, marked

a significant moment in acknowledging outstanding research contributions. A total of 150 awards were conferred upon academic staff members, reflecting the commitment of the University to recognizing excellence in research. This event not only served as a platform to honour the recipients but also highlighted the university's dedication to fostering a research-centric environment.

Outstanding Research Performance with Distiction

Dr. Abenayake CC	Dr. Gopura RASC	Prof. Perera NGR
Dr. Abeygunawardane AAGA	Dr. Gunatilake PKSVS	Dr. Prasad WD
Prof. Abeyasinghe AMKB	Prof. Halwathura RU	Prof. Premasiri HMR
Dr. Adikariwattage VV	Dr. Hemachandra KT	Prof. Rajapaksha IGP
Dr. Ahangama S	Prof. Hemapala KTMU	Prof. Rajapaksha RMKU
Senior Prof. Amarasinghe BMWPK	Dr. Herath HMST	Dr. Ramachandra T
Prof. Amarasinghe YWR	Associate Prof. Jayasena VD	Dr. Ranadewa KATO
Dr. Ariyadasa HLTU	Senior Prof. Jayasinghe C	Dr. Ranasinghe RACP
Dr. Attygalle D	Senior Prof. Jayasinghe MTR	Dr. Ranathunga L
Dr. Bamunawala RMJ	Dr. Jayasinghe AB	Dr. Ranathunga RADS
Dr. Charles TSN	Dr. Jayatunga JVUP	Dr. Ranaweera HRAT
Senior Prof. Dasanayake SWSB	Dr. Jayawardena CL	Senior Prof. Rathnayake NP
Prof. Dayananda NWN	Prof. Jayaweera MW	Dr. Rodrigo BKR
Dr. De Silva AC	Dr. Karunathilake HP	Dr. Rohitha LPS
Prof. De Silva GIP	Dr. Kulasekera AL	Dr. Samarasinghe TN
Mr. de Silva MML	Prof. Kulatunga U	Prof. Sandanayake TC
Dr. De Silva NHND	Prof. Lewangamage CS	Prof. Sandanayake YG
Prof. De Silva END	Senior Prof. Mahanama PKS	Prof. Sewvandi GA
Dr. de Silva TS	Dr. Mallawarachchi BH	Ms. Shanika VG
Prof. Dissanayake DMDOK	Prof. Mallikarachchi HMYC	Dr. Siriwardana CSA
Ms. Dissanayake DMPP	Senior Prof. Mampearachchi WK	Dr. Soorige SDA
Dr. Edussooriya CUS	Prof. Meedeniya DA	Mr. Sudantha BH
Prof. Egodage SM	Senior Prof. Nanayakkara SMA	Dr. Sugathadasa PTRS
Prof. Fernando EASK	Prof. Narayana M	Dr. Sumathipala KASN
Dr. Fernando PLN	Mr. Nimarshana PHV	Prof. Waidyasekara KGAS
Dr. Firdhous MFM	Prof. Pasindu HR	Prof. Weerasinghe UGD
Prof. Gamage JCPH	Dr. Perera AS	Prof. Wickramasinghe GLD
Dr. Gamage JR	Prof. Perera BAKS	Prof. Wijayapala UGS
Prof. Gamage AIT	Prof. Perera GIUS	Dr. Wijewardane MA
Dr. Ganegoda GU	Dr. Perera HLK	
Prof. Gopura RARC	Prof. Perera HN	

Outstanding Research Performance

Dr. Abeygunawardane SK	Mr. Herath HMOK	Dr. Rathnayake HHMP
Dr. Abeykoon AMHS	Dr. Hettiarachchi AA	Mr. Samarasekara AMPB
Dr. Amarasinghe DAS	Prof. Jayasekara AGBP	Prof. Samarasinghe GD
Prof. Arachchige LNW	Dr. Jayasekara PG	Dr. Samarasinghe R
Senior Prof. Bandara JMSJ	Dr. Jayawardane VPT	Dr. Sampath KHSM
Dr. Baskaran K	Associate Prof. Karunadasa JP	Dr. Seram NCK
Prof. Chandima DP	Senior Prof. Karunananda AS	Dr. Silva ATP
Dr. Damruwan HGH	Prof. Karunaratne PVM	Dr. Sivakumar T
Dr. Danushka KKGK	Senior Prof. Kulathilaka SAS	Dr. Sooriyaarachchi SJ
Dr. Dassanayake ABN	Dr. Logeeshan V	Dr. Sridarran P
Dr. De Silva GLDI	Dr. Manawadu IN	Dr. Subasinghe SADT
Dr. De Silva PKC	Dr. Nandasiri HMAGK	Dr. Thayaparan M
Dr. Fernando KSD	Mr. Niles SN	Dr. Uthayasanker T
Ms. Francis M	Dr. Nissanka NAID	Dr. Wanasekara ND

Mr. Gallage SD	Dr. Perera SD	Dr. Warusavitharana EJ
Prof. Gamage CD	Dr. Piyatilake ITS	Mr. Weragoda VSC
Dr. Gayan HHS	Dr. Premaratne SC	Prof. Wijayapala WDAS
Dr. Gunarathne RMDS	Prof. Ranathunga GM	Dr. Wijayasiri MPAP
Prof. Gunawardena SHP	Mr. Ranaweera RKPS	Dr. Wijekoon WMAK

Certificate of Recognition

Prof. Nawagamuwa UP	Dr. Wickramasinghe ATP
---------------------	------------------------

2023 President's Awards for Scientific Research Ceremony: A Celebration of Scientific Excellence

[From Cover page]

The 2023 President's Awards for Scientific Research Ceremony unfolded at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exposition Centre of the BMICH in Colombo 07 on November 21, 2023. This event, meticulously organized by the National Research Council (NRC), marked the conferment of the prestigious

President's Awards for Scientific Research for the publication years 2019 and 2020. A notable feature of the ceremony was the acknowledgment of the top 150 papers published in journals with the highest SCImago Journal Ranking (SJR), with a significant criterion being the participation of 20% or more authors with

a Sri Lankan institutional affiliation. Each of these outstanding papers received an award, exemplifying the dedication to excellence within the Sri Lankan scientific community. The ceremony not only recognized the achievements but also underscored the commitment to elevating scientific discourse.

2023 President's Award for Scientific Research (2019 and 2020 Publications)

Faculty	Department	Article
Faculty of Architecture	Department of Building Economics	Harshini Mallawaarachchi, Yasangika Sandanayake , Gayani Karunasena, Chunlu Liu Unveiling the conceptual development of industrial symbiosis: Bibliometric analysis Journal of Cleaner Production 2020, Vol 258, Art No 120618
Faculty of Business	Department of Decision Sciences	Tiloka de Silva , Silvana Tenreiro The Fall in Global Fertility: A Quantitative Model American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics 2020, Vol 12, Iss 3, pp 77-109
Faculty of Engineering	Department of Chemical and Process Engineering	Maksud Bekchanov, Md. Alam Hossain Mondal, Ajith de Alwis , Alisher Mirzabaev Why adoption is slow despite promising potential of biogas technology for improving energy security and mitigating climate change in Sri Lanka? Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 2019, Vol 105, pp 378-390
		MN Rammuni, Thilini U Ariyadasa , PHV Nimarshana, RA Attalage Comparative assessment on the extraction of carotenoids from microalgal sources: Astaxanthin from <i>H. pluvialis</i> and β -carotene from <i>D. salina</i> Food Chemistry 2019, Vol 277, pp 128-134
		Nuwan Gunarathne, Ajith de Alwis , Yasanthi Alahakoon Challenges facing sustainable urban mining in the e-waste recycling industry in Sri Lanka Journal of Cleaner Production 2020, Vol 251, Art No 119641
		Yasas Wishvajith Bandara, Pringa Gamage, Duleeka Sandamali Gunarathne Hot water washing of rice husk for ash removal: The effect of washing temperature, washing time and particle size Renewable Energy 2020, Vol 153, pp 646-652
		WAMKP Wickramaarachchi, Mahinsasa Narayana Pyrolysis of single biomass particle using three-dimensional Computational Fluid Dynamics modelling Renewable Energy 2020, Vol 146, pp 1153-1165
	Department of Civil Engineering	Xiaogang Zhang, Ranjith Pathegama Gamage, MSA Perera, A Haque, AS Ranathunga The influence of CO ₂ saturation time on the coal gas flow: Fractured bituminous coal Fuel 2019, Vol 240, pp 153-161
		ERK Chandrathilaka, JCPH Gamage , S Fawzia Numerical modelling of bond shear stress slip behavior of CFRP/steel composites cured and tested at elevated temperature Composite Structures 2019, Vol 212, pp 1-10
		ERK Chandrathilaka, JCPH Gamage , S Fawzia Mechanical characterization of CFRP/steel bond cured and tested at elevated temperature Composite Structures 2019, Vol 207, pp 471-477
		Mahesh Jayaweera, Buddhika Gunawardana , Manju Gunawardana, Asiri Karunawardana, Viraj Dias, Sarath Premasiri, Janith Dissanayake, Jagath Manatunge , Nimal Wijeratne, Dhananjith Karunaratne, Saman Thilakasiri Management of municipal solid waste open dumps immediately after the collapse: An integrated approach from Meethotamulla open dump, Sri Lanka Waste Management 2019, Vol 95, pp 227-240
		MAN Dewapriya, RKND Rajapakse, WPS Dias Characterizing fracture stress of defective graphene samples using shallow and deep artificial neural networks Carbon 2020, Vol 163, pp 425-440
		Harshinie Karunaratna, Pravin Maduwantha, Bahareh Kamranzad, Harsha Rathnasooriya, Kasun de Silva Evaluation of spatio-temporal variability of ocean wave power resource around Sri Lanka Energy 2020, Vol 200, Art No 117503

		Xiaogang Zhang, PG Ranjith, Yiyu Lu, AS Ranathunga Experimental investigation of the influence of CO ₂ and water adsorption on mechanics of coal under confining pressure International Journal of Coal Geology 2019, Vol 209, pp 117-129
		Xiaogang Zhang, PG Ranjith, AS Ranathunga Sub- and super-critical carbon dioxide flow variations in large high-rank coal specimen: An experimental study International Journal of Coal Geology 2019, Vol 209, pp 117-129
		Xiaogang Zhang, PG Ranjith, AS Ranathunga Sub- and super-critical carbon dioxide flow variations in large high-rank coal specimen: An experimental study Energy 2019, Vol 181, pp 148-161
Department of Computer Science & Engineering	Vijini Mallawaarachchi, Lakmal Meegahapola, Roshan Madhushanka, Eranga Heshan, Dulani Meedeniya , Sampath Jayarathna Change Detection and Notification of Web Pages: A Survey ACM Computing Surveys 2020, Vol. 53, Iss 1, Art No 15, pp 1-35	
Department of Electrical Engineering	Thisandu Dulhara Kahingala, Sarath Perera, Upuli Jayatunga , Ashish Prakash Agalgaonkar, Philip Ciuffo Estimation of Voltage Unbalance Attenuation Caused by Three-Phase Induction Motors: An Extension to Distribution System State Estimation IEEE Transactions on Power Delivery 2019, Vol 34, Iss 5, pp 1853 – 1864	
	DKJS Jayamaha, NWA Lidula , AD Rajapakse Protection and grounding methods in DC microgrids: Comprehensive review and analysis Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 2020, Vol 120, Art No 109631	
Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering	Jathushan Rajasegaran, Vinoy Jayasundara, Sandaru Jayasekara, Hirunima Jayasekara, Suranga Seneviratne, Ranga Rodrigo DeepCaps: Going Deeper with Capsule Networks Proceedings of the IEEE Computer Society Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition 2019, pp 10725-10733	
	Saman Atapattu, Prathapasinghe Dharmawansa , Marco Di Renzo, Chintha Tellambura, Jamie S. Evans Multi-User Relay Selection for Full-Duplex Radio IEEE Transactions on Communications 2019, Vol 67, Iss 2, pp 955 - 972	
	Upeka Premaratne , Saman Halgamuge, Ying Tan, Iven MY Mareels Extremum Seeking Control with Sporadic Packet Transmission for Networked Control Systems IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems 2020, Vol 7, Iss 2, pp 758-769	
Department of Mechanical Engineering	Hirushie Karunathilake , Kasun Hewage, Joshua Brinkerhoff, Rehan Sadiq Optimal renewable energy supply choices for net-zero ready buildings: A life cycle thinking approach under uncertainty Energy & Buildings 2019, Vol 201, pp 70-89	
	MN Rammuni, Thilini U Ariyadasa, PHV Nimarshana, RA Attalage Comparative assessment on the extraction of carotenoids from microalgal sources: Astaxanthin from H. pluvialis and -carotene from D. salina Food Chemistry 2019, Vol 277, pp 128-134	
	Ravihari Kotagoda Hetti, Hirushie Karunathilake , Gyan Chhipi-Shrestha, Rehan Sadiq, Kasun Hewage Prospects of integrating carbon capturing into community scale energy systems Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 2020, Vol 133, Art No 110193	
	Erdogan Guk, Manoj Ranaweera , Vijay Venkatesan, Jung-Sik Kim, WooChul Jung In-situ temperature monitoring directly from cathode surface of an operating solid oxide fuel cell Applied Energy 2020, Vol 280, Art No 116013	
	Haibo Feng, Don Rukmal Liyanage, Hirushie Karunathilake , Rehan Sadiq, Kasun Hewage BIM-based life cycle environmental performance assessment of single-family houses: Renovation and reconstruction strategies for aging building stock in British Columbia Journal of Cleaner Production 2020, Vol 250, Art No 119543	
	Ezzeddin Bakhtavar, Tharindu Prabatha, Hirushie Karunathilake , Rehan Sadiq, Kasun Hewage Assessment of renewable energy-based strategies for net-zero energy communities: A planning model using multi-objective goal programming Journal of Cleaner Production 2020, Vol 272, Art No 122886	
	Hirushie Karunathilake , Kasun Hewage, Tharindu Prabatha, Rajeev Ruparathna Rehan Sadiq Project deployment strategies for community renewable energy: A dynamic multi-period planning approach Renewable Energy 2020, Vol 152, pp 237-258	
Department of Textile and Clothing Technology	KR Sanjaya D Gunawardhana, Nandula D Wanasekara , RD Ishara G Dharmasena Towards Truly Wearable Systems: Optimizing and Scaling Up Wearable Triboelectric Nanogenerators iScience 2020, Vol 23, Iss 8, Art No 101360	
Department of Transport & Logistics Management	Shadi Goodarzi, H Niles Perera , Derek Bunn The impact of renewable energy forecast errors on imbalance volumes and electricity spot prices Energy Policy 2019, Vol 134, Art No 110827	
	Shadi Goodarzi, H Niles Perera , Derek Bunn The impact of renewable energy forecast errors on imbalance volumes and electricity spot prices Energy Policy 2019, Vol 134, Art No 110827	
	H Niles Perera , Behnam Fahimnia, Travis Tokar Inventory and ordering decisions: a systematic review on research driven through behavioral experiments International Journal of Operations & Production Management 2020, Vol 40, Iss 7/8, pp 997-1039	

Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

Four Inaugural Lectures Conducted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in the Last Four Months.

The following Inaugural Lectures were conducted at the Faculty of Graduate Studies during the last four months in the board room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode with the participation of research students, visitors and academic staff members. Their inaugural lecture was which covers all aspects of the research findings of their journey to becoming a professor. Also at the end of the lecture they are introduced to the public as a professor and their capabilities to the country and to the university with academic achievements.



Prof. Chathura De Silva,
Professor, Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering

ICT in Border Management:
Who's Watching when Traveling Abroad



Prof. LIN de Silva,
Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering

Handling Stresses: the Intriguing Similarities between Humans and Soils

Dr. Chalaka Fernando,
Manager - Environmental Management Plan & Seasonal Lecture - Corporate Sustainability (College of Business), The Australian National University, Canberra.

Ms. PLI Wimalaratne,
Lecturer, Dept. of Building Economics, UoM.

Three Research Lounges Conducted by Faculty of Graduate Studies in the Last Four Months.

The following three Research Lounges were organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies with the collaboration of Library, University of Moratuwa during last four months at the board room of Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode with participation of research students, visitors and academic staff members.

Ms. Kalindu Mendis,
Research Scholar, Dept. of Building Economics, UoM.

Ms. CLW Dissanayake,
Research Scholar, Dept. of Chemical and Process Eng., UoM.



Academic & Industry Collaboration

Collaboration Initiatives Between INTI International University and the University of Moratuwa



Associate Professor Dr. Asokan Vasudevan, a distinguished faculty member from the

Faculty of Business & Communications at INTI International University, Malaysia, visited the University of Moratuwa on November 1, 2023. During his visit, Dr. Vasudevan engaged in a productive meeting with key figures at the University of Moratuwa, including Dr. DP Chandrasekara, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. GD Samarasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Business, and Prof. Gamini Lannerolle, Director of International Relations. The agenda of the meeting was centered

on around fostering a collaborative relationship between INTI International University and the University of Moratuwa.

Several academic staff members and colleagues joined the discussion, emphasizing the shared commitment to enhancing academic excellence through collaborative initiatives. The primary focus areas identified for collaboration included the organization of international conferences, facilitation of exchange programs for visiting scholars, joint

research endeavors, and collaborative publication efforts. As a testament to the commitment made during this fruitful meeting, both institutions resolved to formalize their collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU will serve as a framework, outlining the terms and conditions for joint initiatives and further solidifying the partnership between INTI International University and the University of Moratuwa. As Associate Professor Dr. Asokan Vasudevan takes the lead in this



collaborative effort, the visit marks the beginning of a promising chapter in the academic journey of both INTI

International University and the University of Moratuwa

BRU Initiates collaborations with the N/LAB, University of Nottingham



A team from the N/LAB, University of Nottingham, UK visited the University of Moratuwa (UoM) on the 2nd November 2023. N/LAB is the centre of excellence at the University of Nottingham, developing and applying innovative research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning and Human Behaviour in projects targeting social good. During their visit to the University of Moratuwa, Dr. James Goulding - Director of the N/LAB



conducted a Seminar on “AI and Big Data for Social Goods”. He talked about some of N/LAB projects, and how the lab’s work is helping to produce innovations in Health, Nutrition and Food Insecurity in the UK, as well as contributing to international development in areas of Mobility, Poverty and Social Vulnerability. Staff and students from Business, Engineering, and Information Technology faculties attended the seminar held at the auditorium of the Faculty of Business. There were participants from the University of Peradeniya and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura as well. Following the seminar, the External Affairs Publicity & International Student Promotion Division of the University of Moratuwa had arranged a meeting with the team from the N/LAB to discuss

the possible collaborations. In addition to Dr. Goulding, Dr. Gavin Smith - Associate Professor in Business Analytics, Dr. John Harvey - Associate Professor in Marketing, and Dr. Samanthika Gallage - Assistant Professor in Marketing from the University of Nottingham also participated in the seminar and the meeting. Dr. DP Chandrasekara, Deputy- Vice Chancellor, Professor GD Samarasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Business, Professor G. Lanarolle, Director External Affairs Publicity & International Student Promotion Division and BRU team of the University of Moratuwa initiated a discussion on possible future collaborations with the N/LAB team. The Deans and representatives from all faculties and Centres of UoM also participated in the discussion.



Empowering Futures: Insights from CFA Institute Leaders and Industry Professionals at the University of Moratuwa



The regional team of CFA society Sri Lanka conducted an informative session to the undergraduates following the

Bachelor of Business Science (Hons.) degree specializing in Financial Services Management, Faculty of Business on 22nd

November, 2023. The session was headed by Arati Porwal, Country Head-India, CFA Institute; Sachin Naik, Director-Partnerships and Client Solutions; and Senaka Kakiriwaragodage, CFA, CEO-NDB Capital Holdings Limited, Director-CFA Society Sri Lanka. The CFA Society Sri Lanka is part of the worldwide network of CFA Institute member societies that lead the investment profession globally by promoting the highest standards of ethics, education, and professional excellence for the ultimate benefit of society.

Guest Lectures / Talks

Keynote Address at the 2023 Philippine Textile Congress



Professor (Mrs.) Samudrika Wijayapala, representing the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, delivered a keynote address at the 2023 Philippine Textile Congress. This esteemed event was organised by the Department of Science and Technology, specifically the Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI) in the Republic of the Philippines. The congress functioned as a pivotal platform fostering convergence and integration among stakeholders within the Philippine Textile Innovation ecosystem. The event spanned from November 7th to November 24th, 2023. Her keynote speech played a pivotal role in the “Textile Education and Training” session, where she shared profound insights on the theme, “An Overview of Textile Education in Sri Lanka.” This contribution provided a comprehensive perspective on the subject matter, enriching the discourse within the conference.

Guest Lecture on Developing Interpersonal Skills for Level 02 Undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics



On November 29th, 2023, Level 2 students following Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management degree programmes were privileged to attend a guest lecture titled “Developing Interpersonal Skills as a Quantity Surveyor.” The enlightening session was facilitated by Mr. Dilan Senanayake, a distinguished Lecturer in Mass Communication and Media Studies, a Motivational Speaker, and a well-known Public Figure.

Designed to cater to the unique needs of Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management students, the lecture centered on the significance of interpersonal skills in navigating the complexities of the built environment. Mr. Dilan Senanayake, with his diverse background, provided valuable insights into the art of engaging effectively with various stakeholders associated with these professions.

The session proved to be exceptionally helpful for the students, as both Quantity Surveyors and Facilities Managers are often

required to interact with a large variety of stakeholders in their roles. Mr. Dilan Senanayake’s expertise shed light on the importance of effective communication, negotiation, and relationship-building in fostering success within the built environment.

This guest lecture exemplifies the department’s commitment to providing students with a well-rounded education that encompasses not only technical skills but also the essential interpersonal skills crucial for success in their future careers.

Elevating Potential: Guest Lecture on Emotional Intelligence for Level 01 Quantity Surveying Undergraduates

On December 6th, 2023, Level 01 undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics were enriched by a guest lecture on Emotional Intelligence conducted by Ms. Anushika Rathnayake from the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Moratuwa. The session, strategically designed to foster personal and professional growth, centered on enhancing the soft skills of the undergraduates.

Ms. Anushika Rathnayake’s expert guidance delved into the particulars of

Fostering Workplace Well-being: Guest Lecture on Ergonomics for Level 02 Students of the Department of Building Economics

In an effort to instill a deeper understanding of workplace health and safety, the Department of Building Economics hosted a guest lecture for Level 2 Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management students. The insightful session, titled “Efficacy of Ergonomics in Cultivating Optimal Health and Safety in the Workplace,” was delivered by Ms. Hasangi Nishadini. Ms. Hasangi, a lecturer affiliated with The Chiththa Advanced Psychological Studies Open Institute of Sri Lanka, shared her expertise on the crucial role ergonomics plays in enhancing workplace well-being. The lecture, specifically tailored for

Level 2 students, aimed to underscore the importance of optimizing health and safety measures, particularly applicable to those studying Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management. Ms. Hasangi delved into practical strategies to improve workplace health, emphasizing the relevance of ergonomics in creating environments conducive to both physical and mental well-being. The session provided students with valuable insights into the application of ergonomic principles in their future roles, highlighting its significance in their respective fields of study.

Emotional Intelligence, focusing on the ability to recognize and regulate one’s emotions and empathize with others. The lecture underscored the significance of high Emotional Intelligence in building strong relationships, alleviating team stress, resolving conflicts, and ultimately enhancing job satisfaction.

The session’s emphasis on soft skills development aligns with the department’s commitment to providing students with a holistic education. The practical insights shared by Ms. Anushika Rathnayake are not only invaluable for academic success but also to lay the groundwork for the students’ future professional endeavours.

Nurturing Early Growth: Guest Lecture on Professional and Personal Development for Level 01 Quantity Surveying Undergraduates

On December 16th, 2023, Level 01 Quantity Surveying undergraduates at the University of Moratuwa had the privilege of attending a guest lecture titled “Required Professional and Personal Development in Your QS Career.” The session was expertly conducted by Mr. Gayal Prasanga Kuruppu the UAE Country Manager for Excom Consultants, offering valuable insights into essential skills for budding Quantity Surveyors.

Focusing on interpersonal skills crucial for a successful Quantity Surveying career, Mr. Gayal Prasanga Kuruppu provided a roadmap for personal and professional development. The lecture proved to be especially valuable for Level 01 students, offering them early insights to cultivate these key skills throughout their academic journey and future careers.

Mr. Gayal Prasanga Kuruppu’s expertise shed light on the importance of interpersonal skills in the Quantity Surveying profession, providing practical guidance for the students. This session marks a crucial steppingstone in the development of these undergraduates, empowering them with the knowledge and foresight to nurture essential skills for their future roles.

Guest Lecture: Space, IoT and Secure Communications



The Guest Lecture for the month of November conducted by Dr. Leshan Uggalla and Prof. Andrew Ware (University of South Wales, UK) was held on 13th November 2023 at the board room of Faculty

of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode with the participation of 30 research students, visitors, and academic staff members. There lecture was on the topic “Space, IoT and Secure Communications”.

Guest Lecture: The Built Environment Research: A Necessity to Improve the Construction Sector



The Guest Lecture for the month of December conducted by Prof. Monty Sutrisna, (Professor of Construction and Project Management and Head of School of Built Environment at the School of Built Environment - Massey University, New Zealand) was held on 18th December

2023 at the boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode with the participation of 20 research students, visitors and academic staff members. His lecture was on the topic “The Built Environment Research: A Necessity to Improve the Construction Sector”.

Conferences & Symposia

Transport Research Forum (TRF) - 2023



On December 08, 2023, the Transportation Engineering Division of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, hosted the 16th Transport Research Forum (TRF), which was a notable assembly of scholars, business leaders, and foreign specialists. With the goal of promoting cooperation and exchange of knowledge, the forum included three keynote addresses: Dr. Merkebe Demissie, Assistant Professor, University of Calgary, on “Modelling the Demand for Dockless Electric Scooter Sharing Services”, Dr. Ankit Gupta, Associate Professor and MoRTH Chair

Professor, IIT (BHU), on “Performance Specifications for Balance Mix Design: Marshall Mix Design Approach”, and Dr. Chaminda Basnayake, Principal Engineer, Locata Corporation, on “GNSS in Industrial Automation: Vulnerabilities and Search for Alternatives”.

In front of more than 100 participants, a total of 30 research papers and posters were presented in four thematic sessions: public transportation systems; traffic management and intelligent transport systems (ITS); highway design, construction, and maintenance; and transport planning and sustainable planning systems.

TRF 2023 has become an essential forum for cooperation and information exchange amongst various transportation industry players. The success of the event highlights its importance to the advancement of innovation and research in the sector.

International Conference on Information Technology Research 2023



The 08th International Conference on Information Technology Research (ICITR 2023) was held on 07th and 08th December 2023. This is an annual event organized by the Information Technology Research Unit (ITRU), the research dissemination arm of the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. The theme of the conference is “The Next Evolution in Digital Transformation”. The conference is well recognized as a forum to discuss the rapid advances in research and digital transformation development. ICITR 2023 invited paper submissions across five compelling tracks: computer vision, artificial intelligence, computing, data science & data-driven applications, and technology trends.

In a demonstration of collaborative support, ICITR 2023 is honored to receive technical co-sponsorship from the IEEE

and the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Chapter, as well as financial sponsorship from Cambio Software Engineering. All the accepted papers to the ICITR 2023 will be indexed in the IEEE Xplore digital library. This year the conference received around 223 research papers, and 47 papers were accepted by maintaining the acceptance ratio around 21%.

This year’s conference featured three keynote talks by prominent academic personalities; Prof. Sardar MN Islam from Victoria University, Australia; Prof. Chung-Yih Wang from Cheng Hsin General Hospital, Taiwan, and Prof. Chan-Yun Yang from National Taipei University, Taiwan. In addition, two workshops were organized to benefit the conference participants in various new trends and stimulate their research experiences.

Guest Lecture: Let Ranking Position come by way of Research! Food for Thought for UoM



Another Guest Lecture, held on the evening of the same day was conducted by Prof. Saman Halgamuge, Prof. Shanika Karunasekera and Prof. Shanton Chang (University of Melbourne) at the boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode with the participation of 25 academic staff members.

There lecture was on the topic “Let Ranking Position come by way of Research! Food for Thought for UoM”.

International Symposium on Advanced Materials and Their Applications-2023, Department of Materials Science and Engineering



The International Symposium on Advanced Materials and their Applications-2023 was held on December 14, 2023, at the University of Moratuwa. It was hosted by the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and sponsored by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa. Notably, this annual symposium was first held in China in 2021.

This symposium is a collaborative effort between Kagawa University in Japan and Baoji University of Arts and Sciences in China. Prof. Galhenage A. Sewvandi is the program chair, and this event is a result of her collaborative activities. It aims

to jointly discuss the development and application of advanced materials, build an international platform for cooperation and exchange of scientific research, and promote local economic development while further enhancing foreign cultural exchange activities.

The program of the symposium was meticulously designed to foster meaningful discussions, share valuable insights, and establish connections that will contribute to the growth and development of the field. The technical program included a keynote speech by the renowned expert Prof. Qi Feng from Kagawa University, Japan, invited presentations by Prof. Dengwei Hu, Dr. Han Yu, and Dr. Ruixuan Xue from Baoji University of Arts and Sciences, China, and Dr. Imalka Jayawardena from Surrey University, UK. Additionally, a rich array of presentations covered a wide spectrum of topics, providing a comprehensive overview of the latest advancements in the field.



University of Moratuwa, Research Week - 2023



The University of Moratuwa, Research Week 2023 was held for the third consecutive year from 30th November to 8th December under the theme of 'Connecting Academics, Practitioners and Society: Shaping Futures through Advancing Multidisciplinary Collaboration'.

The event was organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Office of Research, jointly with all other faculties of the University. The event contained more insightful, knowledge sharing sessions, exhibitions to showcase student capabilities, panel discussions, workshops such as Postgraduate Day, 3MT competition, Fireside Chat, Data Visualization Camp, Student Researcher Competition, UoM success stories and more. Moreover, during the week, three conferences of the Faculty of Architecture, Business, Information Technology, and Research Symposiums of the Faculty of Engineering and Medicine were successfully concluded.



06th International Conference on Business Research (ICBR 2023)



The 06th International Conference on Business Research (ICBR 2023) was held on the 04th of December 2023 as a part of the Research Week of the University of Moratuwa. Organized by the Business Research Unit (BRU) in consultation with Professor Dinesh Samarasinghe the Dean of the Faculty of Business, this year's theme of the conference was "Creating Value through Innovation: Driving Wealth Creation in the 21st Century". The annual

conference is becoming larger and more substantial every year, and ICBR 2023 was attended by a record number of participants. The Chief Guest, Professor Lakshman Rathnayake, the chairman and the vice chancellor of the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) well recognised the contributions made by the BRU in the promotion and dissemination of research. 22 research paper presentations were organized in four tracks: Operations Management and Business Process Improvement, Entrepreneurship and Human Resource Management, Sales, Marketing, and Finance Management, and Business Analytics and Decision-Making tracks have been scheduled to proceed in parallel. The best papers from each track were awarded. The conference was well received by the participants with the keynotes from distinguished speakers Emeritus Professor Gamini



Gunawardane - California State University, Fullerton, USA, Professor Chathura Ranaweera - Lazaridis School of Business and Economics, Canada, Professor Jeaneth Johansson - Luleå University of Technology, Sweden, Associate Professor Aitor Goti - University of Deusto, Spain, and Mr. Yusuf Saleem, CEO of Process Excellence, MAS Holdings. Dr. Prasanna Illankoon, director of the BRU encouraged

the participants to embrace applied research methodologies, and actively seeking opportunities for collaboration and partnerships to contribute to a truly global body of knowledge. The BRU very much appreciates the sponsorships from the Perera & Sons Bakers (Pvt.) Ltd, Atlas Axillia and Nienhuis Asia Pvt Ltd to make this event a success.

AOTULE 2023 Conference



The Asia-Oceania Top University League on Engineering (AOTULE) 2023 conference, hosted by the faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, was a dynamic gathering of top engineering universities. With representatives from 13 prestigious universities across the Asia-Oceania region, the event centered on the theme “Quality Engineering Education and Practices for Sustainable Development.” The event was held on 9th & 10th November 2023 at the university premises. Delving into critical topics, from global challenges to

the role of engineering in sustainability, the conference fostered interdisciplinary collaboration, inspiring engineers to lead the charge for a sustainable future. Engaging discussions, innovative presentations, and the exchange of diverse perspectives marked this collaborative effort to advance the quality of engineering education and address the challenges

of sustainable development through the perspective of engineering education and practice. As we reflect on the success of AOTULE 2023, we also look ahead to the future. The connections made, the ideas shared, and the collaborations initiated during the conference lay the foundation for continued advancements in engineering education and research.



Foreign Visits

Advancing Academic Excellence: BEMRU Research Colloquium Explores “Supporting Students through Transition



On December 14th, 2023, the Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) organized a research colloquium tailored for academics, centered on the theme “Supporting Students through Transition.” The session proved to be a valuable platform for professional

development and knowledge sharing. Professor Niraj, an esteemed alumnus of the Department of Building Economics currently serving as an Associate Professor in Built Environment at Northumbria University, led the discussion. Drawing from his extensive experience, Prof. Niraj

Successful Completion of Design Code 2023 and the IDR 2023 (Integrated Design Research Conference)



Design Code 2023, the Graduation show of the Department of Integrated Design, was successfully completed under the theme 'Awakening the Economy through Design Innovation'. The event took place from November 23rd to 26th, 2023, at the University of Moratuwa Premises. The overall event commenced with the IDR Conference 2023 (Integrated Design Research) on November 23rd and 24th, featuring a keynote address by Mr. Mahesh Pathirathna, the Global Literacy Advisor of Room to Read and an award-winning author and expert in global education. Mr. Pathirathna was also a recipient of Yale University's 2018 Innovative Leader Scholarship. The 2nd Annual IDR Conference showcased more than 30 research presentations, and the proceedings were published and archived at the Digital Library of the University of Moratuwa. On November 24th, the Design Code 2023 was officially launched at the Rupert Peries Auditorium, followed by a 'Fashion Alley' fashion show segment, highlighting the work of the Department's students. Additionally, the 'Culture Code' segment showcased craft-based designs dedicated to Cinnamon waste, along with the overall exhibition



opening. The exhibition space featured displays of Foundation level selected work, Culture Code Design, showcases of level II student work, and displays of student and graduating work within the streams of Fashion and Lifestyle Design, Media and Communication Design, and Product Design. Furthermore, the exhibition included displays of Postgraduate Research work of the Department, Packaging Design innovations, Product Design Innovation, Poster Designs, among others. Concurrently, a series of workshops and events were conducted for the public and industry aimed at building awareness of the program and bridging the gap between industry and academia through collaborative learning. Special highlights included segments such as 'LearnX' for User Interface and User Interaction, 'Space Concave' for Interior, product design and architecture, and "Packaging for Exports" for the Packaging and export industry. The event was successfully conducted with the participation of more than three hundred attendees across the four-day event, and a special workshop 'Design Thinker' was organized for school children.

focused on understanding the development of cognitive skills through Bloom's Taxonomy and assessing the depth of knowledge attained by students using the Solo Taxonomy. The colloquium provided a unique opportunity for young academic staff members to enrich their teaching and assessing skills. Prof. Niraj's insights offered a fresh perspective on supporting students through various academic transitions, fostering a deeper understanding of the cognitive milestones students navigate. This research colloquium reflects BEMRU's commitment to advancing academic excellence and providing a platform for continuous learning and improvement within the academic community. The event served as a catalyst for enhancing teaching methodologies and assessing skills, ensuring a supportive and enriching academic environment.

Dr. HMST Herath from the Department of Civil Engineering visits the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD)



Dr. HMST Herath from the Department of Civil Engineering embarked on a visit to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD), from 01st October to 31st December 2023. During this academic visit, Dr. Herath engaged in research work at the Department of Applied Mechanics of IITD. Dr. Herath continued his research work on physics-informed material constitutive modelling using Bayesian learning and used two-ply carbon fibre composites to validate the surrogate models. He also established connections with the Civil Engineering department of IITD for potential future research collaborations.

Student Achievements

Chamal Jayaminda from UMCSAWM - Department of Civil Engineering Wins Best Paper Award at MERCon-2023

[From Cover page]



Chamal Jayaminda, a research scholar at the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Center for South Asia Water Management (UMCSAWM) of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, has won the best paper award in the Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering track at the Moratuwa Engineering Research Conference (MERCon) 2023.

The study, titled “Rating Performance of Global Climate Models in Capturing Monsoon Rainfall Patterns in Sri Lanka,” evaluated the performance of several Global Climate Models (GCMs) in simulating the monsoon rainfall patterns in Sri Lanka. His findings could help to improve the accuracy of climate change projections and inform the development of climate adaptation strategies for Sri Lanka. The



research project is supervised by Dr. HGLN Gunawardhana and Prof. RLHL Rajapakse. MERCon is an annual international conference that covers a wide range of engineering topics, including Mechanical Engineering, Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering, Civil Engineering, and more. The conference was held between November 09th-11th, 2023, at the University of Moratuwa premises.

This award is a further demonstration of the high quality of research being conducted at the UMCSAWM research program at the Department of Civil Engineering. His work is a significant contribution to the field of Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering.

Research Student Achievements



Ms. Madushi Hansika Medagedara, has won both the best 3MT thesis award and the People’s Choice for the Best 3MT Thesis Award, organized by the FGS, University of Moratuwa. The highlight is that the competition was opened to any degree awarding institute in Sri Lanka and not limited to the University of Moratuwa. There were about 38 applicants out of which Hansika secured first place in both categories.

Building Economics Undergraduate Receives Prestigious Robin Jones Award for Innovation and Sustainability

[From Cover page]

Ms. Ishini Saparamadu, an undergraduate student representing the University of Moratuwa, visited Manchester, UK last month to receive the esteemed Robin Jones Award 2023 under the category “Innovation

and Sustainability”. This prestigious recognition, bestowed by the Chartered Institute of Civil Engineering Surveyors, celebrates exceptional innovations and contributions made by apprentices or

Virtual Session on ‘Core-Curricula Module Development under the Erasmus+ Programme

A virtual session on ‘Core-Curricula module Development under the Erasmus+ Programme titled LBS2ITS (lbs2its.net)’ was held in November 2023 with the participation of esteemed academics from TU Wien, Austria; NTU Athens, Greece; and TU Dresden, Germany. Dr. Amila Jayasinghe and Mr. Niroshan Sanjaya made presentations on the proposed curricular enhancements to the postgraduate and undergraduate degree programs offered by the Department of Town & Country Planning, University of Moratuwa.

The Department extends its sincere gratitude to the Erasmus+ Programme titled LBS2ITS (lbs2its.net) for this enriching opportunity. The partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to capacity building in higher education in the continually evolving landscape of urban planning and intelligent transport systems.

Ms. PU Navodhya Awarded Commonwealth Split-Site PhD Scholarship

Ms. PU Navodhya, PhD candidate of the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, University of Moratuwa was awarded the Commonwealth Split-Site PhD scholarship to continue her doctoral study at the University of Manchester, UK. The Commonwealth Split-Site PhD program provided the opportunity to widen access to UK equipment and expertise for quality doctoral candidates from Commonwealth countries to contribute to Commonwealth higher education and research, through collaboration and partnerships. She was initially recruited as a Research Assistant for an MPhil project funded by the SRC Long Term Research Grant, principally supervised by Dr. (Mrs) Jayamali De Silva in 2021. She is continuing the same project in her PhD dissertation titled “Development of a Practical Pattern Drafting Guide for Women’s Upper Body Stretch Garments Incorporating Optimum Ease Values”. We extend our congratulations to Ms. Navodhya for her remarkable achievement and wish her the best in her future endeavors.



research students worldwide in the field of civil engineering surveying. With this award, she received a cash prize and all paid accommodation at the Midland Hotel, Manchester. The award ceremony took place at the elegant and historic Midland Hotel, a fitting venue to honour exceptional

talent. The evening was a captivating blend of academic excellence, recognition, and celebration as Ishini received the Robin Jones Award, which is named in honour of the renowned civil engineering surveyor, Robin Jones. In addition to the award ceremony, Ishini's visit to the UK was an enriching experience. During her stay, she had the opportunity to explore two prestigious universities, Durham and Huddersfield, known for their academic excellence in the field of engineering. She engaged with faculty at both institutions, exchanging knowledge and experiences. The recipient's remarkable accomplishment

stems from her exemplary work during her undergraduate internship. There she developed a groundbreaking software and web application for payment processes in construction. Furthermore, her project has been chosen for funding through the University Business Linkage Cell (UBLC) - University of Moratuwa. This short-term funding was received from the World Bank AHEAD project for commercialization of innovative projects. Furthermore, her work incorporating AI into construction contract management was recognised as top four innovation research projects under the "Innovation and Quality Scholarship" by the Chartered Institute of Building, UK.

Building Economics Department's Stage Play Earns Acclaim at "Alzheimer Theatre" Competition



In a thought-provoking move, the Level 01 undergraduates of the Building Economics Department presented the stage play "Dhammo Bhawe Rakkhathi Dhammachie" at the "Alzheimer Theatre" stage play competition, held in conjunction with the "Yadam Binda Iglenu Vas" festival

organized by the University of Moratuwa Faculty of Architecture Students' Union on December 14, 2023. This theatrical production courageously confronted societal attitudes towards love, friendship, sexuality, and social ties, particularly in the context of modern youth perspectives. The play aimed to challenge perceived backward and misguided notions prevalent in a third-world country like Sri Lanka, fostering dialogue and reflection on contemporary social ideologies. The production, skillfully led by Amantha S Bandara, received three prestigious awards, emphasizing its impact and effectiveness in conveying a

strong social message. Amantha S Bandara was recognized as the Best Actor, while Sandeni Dulanya received the accolade for Best Actress. The play itself was awarded as the Best Production, further solidifying its contribution to challenging and reshaping societal norms.



Student Film 'Antojata' Earns Nominations at National Youth Film Festival



The recent Audio-Visual endeavor, 'Antojata,' crafted by Level III Media and Communication Design students at the Department of Integrated Design, has not only garnered attention but

also earned nominations for Best Script and Best Production Design at the 2023 National Youth Film Festival in Sri Lanka. This ambitious project delves into the intricate realms of moving image theory,

critical studies of the screen, as well as AV pre-production, production, and post-production processes. The narrative of 'Antojata' unfolds around Ranaweera, a government-employed serial killer entangled in the aftermath of a failed mission in 1970s Sri Lanka. The film ingeniously explores his internal struggles, laying bare his dark nature and the far-reaching consequences of his deadly pursuits.

Beyond its cinematic merit, the project serves a broader purpose. It aspires to equip aspiring communication designers with a profound understanding of how cinema, through the intricate use of image and sound, conveys information about the three-dimensional world. The film stands as a testament to the students' creative prowess and their adeptness in translating theoretical knowledge into a captivating audio-visual narrative.

Outstanding Achievement: Liyanage Tharindu Nirmal Wickremasinghe Tops 2018 Batch at University of Moratuwa

[From Cover page]



Liyanage Tharindu Nirmal Wickremasinghe has secured the top position in the 2018 batch at the General Convocation of the University of Moratuwa, held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) on December 20th and 21st, 2023.

Tharindu's outstanding achievements were recognized as he received prestigious gold medals for his remarkable academic prowess and overall performance during his undergraduate years. The awards were presented by the Chancellor, Prof. Monte Cassim. Among the accolades, Tharindu was honored with the title of the "Most

Final Year Research Project Awarded the First Runner-Up Place at SLAAS Best Inter-University Final Year Undergraduate Research Project in Engineering 2023



Mr. KALH Kuruppu from the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, has been awarded the prestigious 'Manamperi Award' in the Individual category by the Sri Lankan Association for the Advancement of Sciences (SLAAS). This award was presented for Mr. Kuruppu's final year research project titled "Analysis of Curved Crease Origami Structures," conducted under the supervision of Prof. Chinthaka Mallikarachchi at the Department of Civil

Engineering, University of Moratuwa. The 'Manamperi' accolade is awarded annually to the most outstanding undergraduate Engineering Research Project carried out at a Faculty of Engineering in a Sri Lankan University. Mr. Kuruppu's accomplishment not only highlights his capabilities but also highlights the rigorous academic standards and impactful research conducted by the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

Outstanding Graduate from the Faculty of Engineering," a testament to his exceptional dedication and commitment to his studies. His academic brilliance was further acknowledged with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) gold medal, awarded for the best academic performance at the university. Tharindu's excellence in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering was recognized, as he was also presented with the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) gold medal for the best academic

performance in the field. Expressing their pride in Tharindu's achievements, the university community and faculty extend their heartfelt congratulations to him. Tharindu's success is a reflection of his hard work, perseverance, and passion for knowledge. As he embarks on his journey beyond university life, we extend our best wishes to Tharindu for all his future endeavors. May his success inspire others to strive for excellence and contribute meaningfully to their chosen fields.

2023 Future Designer International Innovation Design Awards and Science for Sustainable Development Goals Innovation Contest

[From Cover page]

The 2023 Future Designer International Innovation Design Awards (IIDA) and Science for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Innovation Contest which was conducted by UNESCO completed in December 2023 creating two winners from the Department of Integrated Design, University of Moratuwa. The competition aimed to foster innovation and creativity among young individuals worldwide, emphasising the crucial role of Science, Engineering, and STEM in accomplishing

the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants were encouraged to submit projects aligning with the theme, highlighting solutions contributing to sustainable development through inventive design and technological advancements.

Ms. Chamodi Samarasingha Prize. Gold prize Project. "Clay's Journey from Pottery to fashion"

The project reimaged the traditional Sri





Lankan Clay Industry, infusing innovative silhouettes and design elements inspired by the industry's heritage. Employing local clay crafting techniques alongside beading methods, the project aimed to revitalise the industry while emphasising sustainability, creativity, and cultural authenticity.

Mr. Saravanan Nesakumar
Prize. Bronze prize
Project. "Seine Ease"

The project Seine Ease based for giving a innovative solution seining community workers in Sri Lanka who risking their body as the investment for their day to day work

life. The project aim is to give a tangible solution for the seining workers, to reduce the low back and hand related injuries and assist the quality of the work. Considering weight & force distribution as the key idea and with innovative design development phase Seine Ease given a tangible design solution for the coastal seining workers. These exceptional designs were able to come over top after competing with over 1,500 applications from 48 countries. We congratulate Ms. Chamodi Samarasingha and Mr. Saravanan Nesakumar for their achievement.

Integrated Design Department's Students Excel at Sri Lanka Packaging Awards

[From Cover page]



The prowess of the Department of Integrated Design students shone brightly at the 'Sri Lanka Packaging Awards 2023-Lanka Star,' an event organized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging on November 24, 2023, at the Galadari Hotel. The students' exceptional talents earned them a total of six victories out of eight categories. Ms. Udari Gunawardhana claimed the prestigious Gold award, while Ms. Imasha Weerasinghe and Ms. Deshani Ariyathilake secured Silver awards. Mr. Akila Mallikarachchi and Ms. Rashini Illankoon achieved Bronze awards, and Miss Dulanjala Aluthge received a Merit. These remarkable achievements stand as a testament to the dedication and excellence demonstrated by the Department of Integrated Design in the fields of packaging design and innovation. The submissions for the award were part

of the Level III Media and Communication Design's - Packaging Project. The students' success not only highlights their individual talents but also underscores the department's commitment to nurturing and showcasing creative brilliance in the realm of packaging.



Most Outstanding Graduate, University of Moratuwa, 2023

[From Cover page]



Mr. Prabhathiya Herath from the Department of Mechanical Engineering (2018 intake) received the VIDYA JYOTHI PROFESSOR DAYANTHA S WIJEYSEKERA AWARD for the Most Outstanding Graduate of the University of Moratuwa during the 44th General Convocation held on 21st of December 2023, at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). This award is for the most versatile graduate of the University of Moratuwa of proven academic standing with a GPA exceeding 3.7 (or First Class honours), who is recognized as a leader and held in high esteem by other students; and has made a significant contribution through participation and service to the university and community.

Mr. Prabhathiya Herath graduated from the University of Moratuwa, earning a Bachelor of the Science of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with First-Class Honours with an overall GPA of 4.09 (out of 4.2). He was awarded the Gold

Medal/Jayaweera Kuruppu Memorial Award (2023) for the best Mechanical Engineering graduate. He also received the IMechE (UK) Best Student Certificate for academic excellence in Mechanical Engineering for 2022/23. In addition to his outstanding academic work, he excelled in several co-curricular activities during his undergraduate days. He was a Vehicle Dynamics Engineer (2021-22) and the Chief Technical Officer (CTO/2022-23) of "Team FalconE Racing", which is the department's formula-electric student racing team. He and his team became first runners-up in the Formula Bharat (virtual) Competition in 2022. Moreover, he showcased his outstanding public speaking skills by becoming Sri Lanka's Champion

of the IMechE Speak Out for Engineering (SOFE) 2021 competition and representing the country in the Southern Asia Regional Finals.

On top of his academic and co-curricular activities, he was a fine sportsman at the University of Moratuwa, wearing university colours for the years 2019 and 2022. He was the captain of the university's basketball team for the year 2022 and led the team to become the champions of the Inter-University Basketball Championship in 2022. He and his team also received the Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) silver medal in 2019. Apart from basketball, he also became the Champion of the Inter-University Scrabble Championship in 2019.

Best Paper Award



Mr. Dilshan Poorna Hedigalla, has won the best paper award in the Textile and Apparel Engineering track, at the MERCon 2023.

Staff Achievements

Dr. DB Nihalsinghe Memorial Gold Medal for the Best Results

[From Cover page]



Mr. B Melro Shamendra, Audio Visual Technical Officer of the Library, University of Moratuwa won the Dr. DB Nihalsinghe Memorial Gold Medal for the best results of the Diploma in Photography, 10th batch, conducted by the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Kelaniya. The Diploma Award Ceremony was held on 02nd December 2023 at the Social Science Auditorium, University of Kelaniya.

Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

Workshop on the Strategic Management Plan for 2024-2028 by the Department of Building Economics



On December 19th, 2023, the Department of Building Economics organized a workshop aimed at formulating a Strategic Management Plan for the upcoming time period of 2024-2028. This collaborative

session brought together both academic and non-academic staff members, fostering a comprehensive approach to departmental development. The workshop prioritized the identification of the department's

strengths and potential opportunities, setting the stage for strategic initiatives in the coming years. Participants engaged in constructive discussions, contemplating strategies to enhance undergraduate and postgraduate programs, as well as other facilities provided by the department.

The session's focus on strategic planning aligns with the department's commitment to continuous improvement and long-term success. By involving both academic and non-academic stakeholders, the workshop ensured a holistic perspective, encouraging collective ownership of the department's future trajectory.

Clubs & Societies

Sithuwili 3.0: BESS Spotlights Diverse Talents in the Department of Building Economics



The Department of Building Economics witnessed the enchanting 03rd episode of Sithuwili, a talent show organized by the Building Economics Student Society (BESS). Sithuwili serves as a dynamic platform for undergraduate students to unveil their exceptional talents and skills across nine diverse categories, including singing, dancing, drawing, digital arts,

poetry, and photography. The event reached its peak during the award ceremony, where the top performers in each category were celebrated for their outstanding contributions. Sithuwili, beyond being a showcase of talent, plays a pivotal role in uncovering the hidden gems within our student community. This celebration of creativity and skill not only enriches the

cultural fabric of the department but also fosters a vibrant community spirit. The Building Economics Student Society takes pride in curating events like Sithuwili, reinforcing the belief that every student possesses unique talents waiting to be discovered and celebrated.

Cultural Events

Department of Civil Engineering Christmas Carols Program – 2023

The Christmas Carols Program of the Department of Civil Engineering was held on the 22nd of December, 2023 from 4.00 pm onwards at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. This was organized as a part of the initiatives by the Head of Department, Prof. (Mrs.) Chinth Jayasinghe, to promote religious harmony within the Department. The event was organized by the students of Intake 2021, under the guidance of

Dr. Lakshitha Fernando. The event was attended by the staff and the students of the Department, Fr. Praveen of St. Sebastians Church, Moratuwa and children and guardians from the home of Diri Daru Piyasa-Maharagama. The event included the singing carols, led by the choir of the Intake 2021 students. Fr. Praveen shared a short reflection about the true meaning of Christmas, that the birth of Jesus is a

reminder to all about giving generously. The performances of the children from Diri Daru Piyasa-Maharagama were one of the highlights of the evening. As part of sharing the true spirit of Christmas, the distribution of gifts to the children and guardians of the home was carried out from the generous contributions of the staff from the Department.



Appointments & Promotions

Professor Monte Cassim Appointed as Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa

[From Cover page]



Professor Monte Cassim has been appointed the new Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa with effect from October 09, 2023. This announcement marks a significant development for the university, known for its excellence in education and research.

Professor Cassim, currently serves as the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Akita International University of Japan which brings with him a wealth of academic and administrative experience. His impressive credentials include being an Invited University Professor at Kyoto University and the Principal Investigator

at the Biophotonics & Spectroscopy Laboratory in the Graduate School of Medicine. With a background rooted in Built Environment studies, Professor Cassim earned his BSc. from the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Ceylon, Colombo, in 1970. He pursued his Masters (1974-76) and his Doctorate (1977-82) in Urban Engineering at the prestigious Tokyo University.

He was President and Trustee of Shizenkan University, a Postgraduate Professional University in Leadership and Innovation and Professor (Science and Technology Innovation). He is also Professor Emeritus and Emeritus Executive Trustee of Ritsumeikan Trust, where he was Vice-Chancellor (2004-2012), and President of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (2004-09). He has been actively involved in the governance and advisory boards of several leading Japanese universities, such as Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, and Kyushu University. Professor Cassim's contributions extend beyond academia into societal realms, where he serves as the Chair of Tools for Self-Reliance, Japan, and is a Representative Executive Director of the Sri-Lanka-Japan

Collaborative Platform. His commitment to inclusive innovation and sustainable development is evident in his leadership roles and initiatives. In his current research focus on health, environment, and life sciences, Professor Cassim has been involved in groundbreaking projects. These include agro-photonics experiments to maximize health-beneficial phytochemical outputs and the development of affordable biomedical devices for understanding body-mind-brain relationships.

The newly appointed Chancellor has a remarkable publication record, showcasing his expertise in diverse fields such as health monitoring systems, near-infrared spectroscopy, and sustainable development. His commitment to international collaboration is evident through initiatives like the Japan-Sri Lanka Innovation Platform and the Emerging and Developing Economies Network Seminars. With a rich background that spans across academia, research, and societal engagement, Professor Monte Cassim is poised to lead the University of Moratuwa into a new era of academic excellence. The university community eagerly anticipates the positive impact his leadership will bring to the University and its stakeholders.

Sports

Top Three Places of the University Category at IESL Robogames 2023 won by University of Moratuwa

[From Cover page]



At IESL Robogames 2023, an annual competition organized by the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of University of Moratuwa, all

top three places of the university category were achieved by teams from University of Moratuwa. The victorious team RoboticGen, who emerged as champions, comprised Seniru Dissanayake, Namina Wijetunge,

Sanjula Gathsara, Odil Janandith, and Nimeth M Wickramaarachchi representing the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering (ENTC) and the Department of Computer

Science and Engineering(CSE).Chamod Abeywickrama ,Chathushka Ranasinghe, Wikum Jayasanka and Vidura Warna of Team Plex secured their position as the 01st Runners Up. All members of Team Plex represented the Department of ENTC.

Team Raspicap successfully emerged as the 02nd Runners Up which comprised of Rameshkumar Rajinthan (ENTC), Anton Jesu Raja Jude Alanraj

(CSE), Srivimalakanthan Sanjayan and Uthayakumar Jathusan, both from Department of Civil Engineering. The competition ended with in resounding success with the participation of students from many schools and universities, by delivering experience and knowledge in Robotics meanwhile inspiring young souls to bring life into innovation and creativity.

Editorial Pillar of Mora Lenz.

University of Moratuwa Wins Gold and Silver at the 01st South Asian International Open Taekwondo Championship 2023

[From Cover page]



Securing fame and honour for Sri Lanka and their university, two undergraduates from the University of Moratuwa secured a gold medal and a silver medal at the 01st South Asian International Open Taekwondo Championship 2023 held in Colombo in December 2023. NLN Tharusha Lekamge, an undergraduate of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering won the gold medal from the men's individual poomsae, blue belt category whereas TMT

Thashara Tennakoon of the Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering won the silver medal from the Women's individual poomsae, blue belt category. Mora Taekwondo who emerged as champions in both Men's and Women's categories at Sri Lankan University Games (SLUG) 2023 has officially displayed its brilliance not just locally, but also internationally.

Editorial Pillar of Mora Lenz.

Retirements / Felicitations Ceremony

Felicitations Ceremony for the Retirement of Emeritus Prof. KAS Kumarage



The felicitations ceremony to recognize the long and invaluable services of Emeritus Prof. KAS Kumarage – former Head of the Department of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering, was held at the Faculty Board of Faculty of Engineering on 07th December 2023. Dr. PTRS Sugathadasa – Head, Department of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering delivered a speech appreciating his commendable service. Faculty wishes long life and happiness to renowned academic member on his retirement.

UOM Alumni

Bronze Medals at the 07th South Asian Karate Championship



Mr. Buddhika Senarathna, an alumnus of the Department of Civil Engineering was awarded two Bronze Medals at the 07th South Asian Karate Championship 2023 held in Kathmandu, Nepal. He victoriously secured third place in both 75kg Senior Male Kumite and Senior Male Team Kumite categories bringing pride and glory to his motherland. Moreover, during his undergraduate period, Buddhika served as the captain of the Karate Team of the University of Moratuwa. His fellow Karate Team members at the University extend their heartiest congratulations for his significant achievement and wish him nothing but success in what the future has to offer.

Editorial Pillar of Mora Lenz.

Felicitations Ceremony for the Retirement of Prof. SAS Kulathilaka & Prof. SMA Nanayakkara





The felicitation ceremony to recognize the long and invaluable services of Emeritus Prof. SAS Kulathilaka – Former Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and Emeritus Prof. SMA Nanayakkara – Senior Lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering was held at the Faculty Board of Faculty of Engineering on 02nd November 2023. Prof. (Mrs.) C Jayasinghe, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, delivered a speech appreciating their commendable services. Faculty wishes long life and happiness to renowned academic members on their retirement.

Farewell Lecture and Felicitation Ceremony of Professor Athula Kulathilake at the Department of Civil Engineering



On the 30th of September 2023, the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa bid farewell to one of its esteemed Senior Professors, Prof. Athula Kulathilake, who retired after a commendable and dedicated service. Prof. Kulathilake played a pivotal role in advancing the Geotechnical Engineering Division of the Department of Civil Engineering. His efforts extended beyond

academia, as he established strong connections with industry, notably with the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) and the Sri Lankan Geotechnical Society (SLGS). He served as SLGS President for over a decade, contributing significantly to its growth and current status. From 2019 to 2021, Prof. Kulathilake served as the Head of Department of Civil Engineering, leaving an indelible mark with his unwavering commitment during challenging times, a sentiment echoed by both colleagues and students. Beyond academia, Prof. Kulathilake exemplified a life of simplicity and honor in line with Buddhist teachings. He actively guided the university community through various religious activities through the Buddhist Society. As he steps into retirement from the university, it is anticipated that

Farewell Lecture of Professor Anura Nanayakkara



On the 08th of November 2023, the University of Moratuwa bid a fond farewell to a distinguished academic, Prof. Anura Nanayakkara. The hybrid event, titled “Concrete: My Lifelong Passion,” captured over four decades of dedicated research, academic excellence, and invaluable contributions to both the University and the construction industry. The event was graced by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, colleagues, emeritus professors, industry representatives, friends, and family. Despite geographical distances, the lecture attracted a global audience as many past and present students joined via the Zoom platform, underscoring the far-reaching influence of Prof. Nanayakkara’s

Extra-Curricular Activities

Outbound Training Program for Non-Academic Staff of the Department of Civil Engineering



A dynamic day-out program was conducted at the Polduwa Holiday Resort in Madapatha on 04th November 2023, for the non-academic staff of the Department of Civil Engineering. This event featured the expertise of renowned outbound training officer, Mr. Prabath Daraniyagala. The primary objective of this training program was to enhance teamwork, improve better coordination, and reduce psychological stress. The initiative has led to improved productivity and a more welcoming atmosphere within the department’s work environment.

Prof. Kulathilake will continue to serve society in diverse ways. The university extends heartfelt wishes for his success in the next phase of his illustrious career, with the confidence that his active service will endure for years to come.

work. Prof. Nanayakkara’s lecture was a celebration of a career marked by milestones and achievements. His expertise in concrete, accumulated over four decades, has left an indelible mark on both academia and industry. From groundbreaking research to nurturing the next generation of engineers, his influence will endure for years to come. Expressions of gratitude filled the air as colleagues, students, and industry partners took turns to acknowledge Prof. Nanayakkara’s career. The retirement lecture served not only as a farewell but also as a platform for those influenced by his work to express their appreciation.

ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. DP Chandrasekara (Chairman)
Professor KTUM Hemapala
Professor. (Mrs) BMWPK Amarasinghe
Professor. GD Samarasinghe
Professor: YG Sandanayake
Professor: R Fernando
Mr. BH Sudantha
Mrs. Ruvini Kodikara
Archt. Sithumini Rathnamalala

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mrs. Ruvini Kodikara
Professor. (Mrs) DA Meedeniya
Dr. (Mrs) GN Kuruppu
Dr. (Mrs) SSMR Samarawickrama
Mr. Sanath Gunawardena
Mrs. Thushari M Seneviratne
Dr. Niroshan Lokunaragoda
Ms. Chathurangi De Silva

NEWS TO BE SENT TO

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

Editor : Mr. Sanath Gunawardena
[E-mail: sanathg@uom.lk]
Published by : Library
University of Moratuwa
Page Layout : Mr. BMS Mendis



University of Moratuwa

Bimonthly UOM news

2023

November - December
Volume: 12
Issue: 06
ISSN: 2279-2023



ISSN 2279-2023