

VIDYA JYOTHI AWARDS



The Investiture Ceremony conferring National Honours on distinguished personalities who rendered a noble service to the country and its advancement, was held on March 20 at the Nelum Pokuna Theater, under the patronage of President Maithripala Sirisena. Among the 89 persons receiving honours were Prof Willie Mendis, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, and Prof Nimal de Silva, former Dean of the Faculty of Architecture. [See Page 02]

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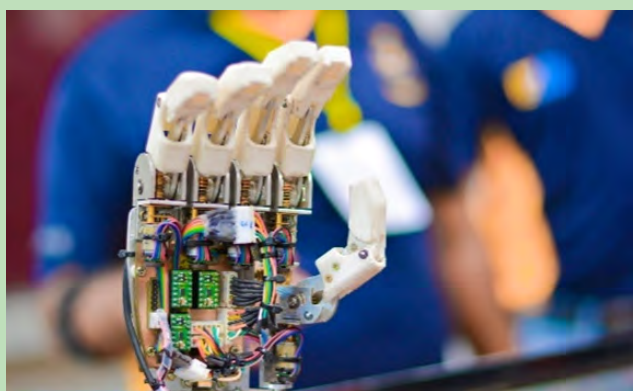
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EXMO 2017



'EXMO 2017', the exhibition of the Faculty of Engineering was held on April 28 and 29. It was held seven years after the last exhibition - EXMO 2010. It was a remarkable event for the University of Moratuwa as the final year undergraduates of the Faculty of Engineering had the opportunity to showcase their talents on various fields and to share their knowledge with others outside the university. The objectives of EXMO 2017 were to showcase the engineering/ technology research and innovation at the Faculty of Engineering, promote engineering education at the University of Moratuwa among school children and parents, provide opportunity for undergraduates to develop their skills demanded by the industry and to attract industry for research and innovation partnerships. All degree offering Departments of the Faculty of Engineering presented exhibits at the exhibition. There were over 600 research and innovation projects presented. In addition, state-of-the-art laboratory equipment to which the general public has less access was also demonstrated at the exhibition. [See Page 02]

VIDYA JYOTHI AWARDS

Professor Willie Mendis is a pioneer Urban Planner in Sri Lanka, having undertaken research for his Master's Degree on the "Planning Implications of the Mahaweli Development Project in Sri Lanka", which was published in 1972 as the first ever text on this giant project covering nearly 1/3rd of the country's land mass, and to voluntarily re-settle of about a million persons. It was on his recommendation that the postgraduate programme in Town and Country Planning began at the University of Moratuwa, which has been in high demand ever since. Professor Mendis was also actively associated with the founding of the Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka, and of its incorporation by an Act of Parliament No. 23 of 1986.



In 1983, Professor Mendis was elected as the University Vice-Chancellor, becoming the youngest ever in Sri Lanka. He oversaw the affairs of the University during the critical social upheavals in the country. During his tenure the Degree programmes in Computer Science and Engineering, Building Economics and Textile Technology were established. These are providing the much needed graduates for the knowledge economy. In addition, the University acquired its first-ever Corporate Plan to embark upon its path as a Centre of Excellence in Technology.

In 1989, Professor Mendis was seconded to serve as Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission in our Missions in USA and Canada to integrate Technology Transfer in foreign policy. In 1991, he was released to serve as the Director-General of the TVEC wherein he pioneered its first ever Plan. In 1993 he assumed duties as the Chairman of the UDA. Thereafter, he resumed duties at the University to mentor the commencement in 2003 of the Undergraduate Programme in Planning. In 2007, Professor Mendis retired from University Service and was conferred the Award of the title of Professor Emeritus, and also bestowed the Honorary Doctorate at the 2008, University Convocation. In 2010, the Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka, bestowed it's first ever Lifetime Achievement Award to Professor Mendis.

Prof Nimal de Silva has been the Head of the Department of Architecture and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture prior to his retirement, on which he was conferred the title of Emeritus Professor. He has over 40 years experience in the field, and has contributed immensely to the fields of Art, Architecture and Archaeology in Sri Lanka. He is former Director General of the Central Cultural Fund and Cultural Triangle, Member of the Advisory Board, Departments of Archaeology and National Museums, Member of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Royal Institute of British Architects and Sri Lanka Council of Archaeologists, Honorary President of ICOMOS (Sri Lanka) and the International President of ICOMOS Scientific Committee on Wall Paintings, former Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology & Research of the University of Kelaniya, former Chairman of the Urban Development Authority and National Design Centre for Crafts, President of the NATIONAL TRUST SRI LANKA, an author of several books and research publications, Art Historian, UNESCO Consultant on World Heritage and Consultant for Tourism Development Projects in Ajantha, Ellora, Sikim Eminent. Prof. De Silva is a Chartered Architect, a well renowned Archaeologist and Architectural Conservation specialist with over 40 years of professional experience. He is also currently Chief Commissioner of Scouting in Sri Lanka.



EXMO 2017

Thousands of spectators visited the university as this was a rare opportunity for the general public to witness an engineering exhibition and visit the University of Moratuwa. Representatives of the industry, university students, and students from various schools were among the crowd of over 35,000.

EXMO 2017 was organized in a very short period of six weeks and from the eyes of many it was a great success due to the contribution of all stake holders; the academic and non academic staff and the students of each Department, the University officials and the administration, non academic staff of all divisions and the blessing of the industry by providing necessary funds for EXMO 2017.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

OPENING OF SECOND PHASE OF THE FACULTY OF IT BUILDING COMPLEX

The Faculty of Information Technology officially opened the second phase of the faculty building complex on March 30. Auspicious activities were held at the beginning of the opening ceremony with the participation of many well wishers.

The Chief Guest of the opening ceremony was Vidya Jyothi Prof. KKYW Perera, Chancellor of the University. The event was graced by Prof Ananda Jayawardane, Vice-Chancellor. Deans of faculties, past and present staff members, and students of the Faculty of IT participated in this event.

A data science lab, an ERP system laboratory, a high performance computer laboratory, an electronic & embedded system laboratory, a behavioural science laboratory and several lecture rooms are housed in this new phase of the Faculty building.

INAUGURATION OF BUSINESS FACULTY



The commencement of the Faculty of Business was marked by a morning pirith ceremony followed by an alms-giving on April 06 at the L block. The Vice-Chancellor, Deans of the Faculties, and academic and administrative staff of the University participated in this event. Prof. ND Gunawardane has been appointed as the Dean of the faculty of Business with effect from 21.02.2017. Dr. GD Samarasinghe has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Management of Technology in the Faculty of Business with effect from 15.02.2017. Mrs. DEWV Nanayakkara has been appointed as the Acting Head of the Department of Decision Sciences in the Faculty of Business with effect from 22.02.2017. Dr. (Mrs.) VPT Jayawardena has been appointed as the Acting Head of the Department of Industrial Management in the Faculty of Business with effect from 15.02.2017.

UNVEILING CEREMONY OF 40 KW SOLAR PV SYSTEM

The University of Moratuwa has taken one step further to become greener by installing a 40 kWp solar PV system in the university premises. This project was funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and coordinated by the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA). The PV system consists of a 35 kWp string inverter system, 5 kWp micro inverter system and a data monitoring system. This facility would save an estimated one million rupees for the university per annum. This system will also be used to improve the learning experience of both UG and PG students in the university.

Upon completion of the PV system, the opening ceremony was held at the Department of Mechanical Engineering on April 28 with the participation of Prof. Priyantha Wijayatunga, Director, South Asia Energy Division at ADB. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ananda Jayawardana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rahula Attalage, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Kapila Perera, representatives from the SLSEA and the industry together with staff members of the Engineering Faculty attended the ceremony.



RESEARCH INITIATIVES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DR. BUDDHIKA JAYASEKARA DELIVERS A TALK AT NATIONAL CXO FORUM 2017

Dr. Buddhika Jayasekara delivered a talk on “AI for intelligent systems and robots” at the 2nd National CXO Forum organized by the Federation of IT Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) the apex industry association for the ICT industry of Sri Lanka, which was held on March 28 at the Hilton Colombo Residencies. It was focused on “Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning” for an audience including 250 CXOs of leading companies in Sri Lanka. His talk was mainly focused on natural intelligence, artificial intelligence on systems and robots, machine learning and current developments at the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa on intelligent service robots such as MIRob (Moratuwa Intelligent Robot).



MESII -2017

Materials Engineering Symposium on Innovation for Industry (MESII-2017), organized for the first time by the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and the Society of Materials Engineering Students (SOMES) was successfully held on March 31 at the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

The objectives of this event were to make a platform for the industry and the public to recognize and gain awareness on the research activities carried out by the final year undergraduates of the department and to provide an opportunity for outsiders; industry and academia alike, to get an understanding about the Department activities and facilities. The theme of the symposium was “Leveraging Materials for a Smarter Future”.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ananda Jayawardane graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Prof. R.A. Attalage, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. K.K.C.K. Perera, Dean Faculty of Engineering, Heads of Departments and many professionals from industry and academia also graced the occasion. The symposium was included ten oral presentations and 24 poster presentations.

The main sponsors for MESII-2017 were Melwire Rolling (Pvt) Ltd, Maga Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, Alumex PLC, Sun Cable (Pvt) Ltd, Silueta (Pt) Ltd, and Lanka tiles PLC.

MOST PROLIFIC SRI LANKAN UNIVERSITY FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH OUTPUT (2011-2016)

The University of Moratuwa Library is proud to announce that the University of Moratuwa has been selected as the Scopus most prolific University in Sri Lanka for outstanding research output (2011-2016) by Elsevier Research Forum.

One of the main goals of the University is to improve the research culture among the academic staff and the students of the University. Library, University of Moratuwa has taken different initiatives to achieve this goal by subscribing to most important academic databases in Architecture, Engineering and IT. The library has conducted various promotional programmes for increasing the usage of these resources.



GUEST LECTURE BY CHATHUMI KAVIRATHNE

Ms. Chathumi Kavirathne conducted a special guest lecturer on March 09 at the Auditorium of the Department of Transport & Logistics Management. She was a TLM graduate (09 Batch), a former instructor of TLM and currently reading for her PhD at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan. She shared her exposure in the field of Transport & Logistics Management as a TLM graduate including MSc Research outputs, overseas experiences and post graduate opportunities.



COLLABORATIONS & CONSULTATIONS

ENGINEERING FACULTY INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE BOARD MEETING

The 10th Faculty Industry Consultative Board (FICB) Meeting of the Faculty of Engineering was successfully held on 09 March at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, with a significant number of industrial participants and University representatives. Matters discussed included the proposed curriculum revision and industrial training. The meeting ended with dinner.



DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

UNVEILING CEREMONY OF PORTRAITS OF PREVIOUS HODS

The Department of Mechanical Engineering witnessed the unveiling of the portraits of its past Heads on April 28. The ceremony was graced by the participation of the first ever Head, Prof US Kuruppu, as the Chief Guest and other past Heads including Prof PA De Silva, Prof RA Attalage, Dr AGT Sugathapala, Dr PABAR Perera, Dr VPC Dasanayake and Dr WK Wimalasiri. Several past academic and non-academic stalwarts of the department were also present. The unveiling ceremony got underway by lighting the traditional oil lamp and the recital of the national anthem. Afterwards, a two-minute silence was observed in memory of Prof C Patuwathavithane, the second Head of Department, who was assassinated while he was serving as Vice-Chancellor of the University. The current Head, Dr RARC Gopura, welcomed the guests and the members of the audience. It was followed by an address by Dr TA Piyasiri, the most senior serving member of the staff, taking the audience back in time. After unveiling the portraits, Prof Kuruppu addressed the gathering and the participants were overwhelmed by the nostalgia of the time gone by. Following this, Prof Attalage read the message sent by Dr SR Tittagala, which again took the audience back down memory lane. The proceedings ended

with a vote of thanks by Mr Jagath Fernando, the most senior technical officer of the Department.



DOL IN NEW LOCATION

The Department of Languages moved to the premises formerly occupied by the Department of Management of Technology on April 3. They will take over the premises occupied by the ITUM as well once the shifting of the ITUM is finalised.



MENTORING CLOSING CEREMONY 2016/17

The mentoring closing ceremony, one of the flagship events in the annual calendar of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management was held at the Earl's Court, Cinnamon Lakeside on April 03 with the collaboration of John Keells Group. The event was graced with the presence of invited guests from the John Keells Group, mentors from various organizations, University staff and students. Dr. T Sivakumar, Head, Department of TLM welcomed the Chief Guest, Ms. Dilani Alagaratnam, President, HR, Legal, Suitability and ERM, John Keells Holdings PLC and all the distinguished guests on behalf of the Department and conveyed his sincere gratitude to the John Keells Group for the continuous partnership and the assistance given since the inception of the Department of TLM in 2005. The event was continued with awarding of John Keells Scholarships for 20 students selected on their performances and another five students selected on the need basis. Awarding the certificates for the Immersion English programme sponsored by the John Keells group was followed by awarding of certificates for the mentees demarcating the successful completion of the 2016 Mentoring programme. The event concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Indika Sigera, coordinator, mentoring programme, thanking all the participants and specially the John Keells Group for the immense support given throughout the past decade and the mentors who dedicated their busy schedules accommodating the students to make the mentoring programme a great success.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STAFF IN FLAGSHIP ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION CONFERENCE

Dr. Thilina Lalithratne, Dr. Damith Chaturanga and Dr. Ruwan Gopura of the Department of Mechanical Engineering gained the following achievements in the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation 2017 (ICRA 2017) which will be held in Singapore from May 29 to June 03. ICRA is considered as the number one conference in robotics

and automation as well as the largest conference in the area. Number of participants is about 3000 researchers. It is the number one in google matrix in robotics (h5 index = 68).

The conference paper co-authored by Dr. Thilina Lalitharathne titled "EEG-Controlled Meal Assistance Robot with Camera-Based Automatic Mouth Position



Tracking and Mouth Open Detection" was accepted. Acceptance of a paper in ICRA is considered as a great achievement by the researchers working in the area. Dr. Damith Chaturanga and Dr. Ruwan Gopura won participation grants. Only ten researchers around the globe received this grant in ICRA 2017.

BEST PRESENTATION IN IEEE ICCAR 2017

Dr. Ruwan Gopura of the Department of Mechanical Engineering presented a paper titled "A Prosthetic Hand with Self-Adaptive Fingers" at the IEEE International Conference on Control Automation and Robotics (ICCAR 2017), Nagoya Institute of Technology, Nagoya, Japan on April 23. ICCAR 2017 was held at Nagoya Institute of Technology from April 22 to 24. Dr. Gopura was awarded the best presentation certificate in the Mechanical Control & Automation session.

During the visit to Japan Dr Gopura

visited the Department of Robotics, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto. He visited the Soft robotics laboratory, Manipulation laboratory, Integrated sensors and intelligent laboratory and Motion intelligence laboratory. Furthermore, he visited the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kyushu University, Fukuoka. He also visited the System Engineering Laboratory and medical college of the Kyushu University and discussed with Prof. Kazuo Kiguchi about possible research collaborations.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE AWARD CEREMONY OF SOCIETY OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

The 9th Annual General Meeting and the Award Ceremony of the Society of Transport and Logistics were successfully held on 1st March 2017 at the auditorium of Department of Transport and Logistics Management, University of Moratuwa. The Society of Transport and Logistics was inaugurated in 2007 to develop interaction with others in the university communities as well as in industry. Being the leading student body in University of Moratuwa in Transport and Logistics sector it has made an incomparable contribution towards the well being of the undergraduates of Department of Transport and Logistics Management. The new STL committee was elected for the year 2017/2018 after completing the successful year with the outgoing STL committee. Before appointing the new STL committee, the 2nd Award Ceremony of Society of Transport and Logistics was held to appreciate the outstanding performances of TLM students in extracurricular activities. The chief guest was Mr. Heminda Jayaweera, Senior Fellow in Innovation and Entrepreneurship at University of Moratuwa. TLM students were awarded under two categories highlighting their individual performances as well as the performance as a group. Six students from 12 batch, five students from 13 batch, four students from 14 batch and one student from 15 batch were awarded for their individual performances. Winners and first runners up of CILT Young Professional's Challenge 2016, Winners of KDU Logistics Day Quiz Competition 2016, winners of Inter University SAIFA Business Challenge under the group award category. And also batch representatives of 12 batch, Mahesha Perera, Nuwan Ranasinghe, Dulan Sampath were given special appreciation and awarded for their commitment.



At the end of the award ceremony, the Chief Guest was made a presentation appreciating his participation. After the Award Ceremony, the Annual General Meeting of Society of Transport and Logistics was conducted under the patronage of Dr. T Sivakumar, Head of the Department. Senior lecturer Mr. Nishal Samarasekera was reappointed as the Staff Adviser. Mr. Kasun Chathuranga was elected as the President for the upcoming year 2017/2018. Mr. Damith Nalinda, Mr. Anupama Premathilaka and Mr. Mavin Lakshitha were elected as the Vice President (Media), Vice President (Industry Relations) and Vice President (Administration) respectively. Miss Thilini Giriagama was elected as the Secretary and Miss Jithmi Udumulla was elected as the Assistant Secretary. Dr. Mahinda Bandara was elected as the Senior Treasurer for the upcoming year and Mr. Kasun Priyadarshana was elected as the Treasurer. President of STL, Mr. Kasun Chathuranga highly appreciated the events organised by the outgoing STL committee and in his address he outlined his hopes for new events for the upcoming year while conducting past events. And also he thanked the outgoing committee and requested all the STL members' cooperation to make the upcoming year a success. Finally Staff Advisor of the STL committee, Mr. Nishal Samarasekera was made a presentation for his contribution in making the events organised by the outgoing STL committee a success.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

GOLD MEDAL AT SLAYS 3MT®

Ms. Harshini Mallawarachchi, a lecturer attached to the Department of Building Economics, won a gold medal in the SLAYS 3 MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION (SLAYS 3MT®), jointly organized by Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) and National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka (NSF). She became one of the 10 finalists from 144 competitors participating in the competition. Ms. Mallawarachchi was awarded a Gold Medal for her performances at the SLAYS Open Forum 2017, held at Hilton Colombo Residences on March 01. The Research was supervised by Prof. Lalith de Silva (Dean, Faculty of Architecture) and Dr. R. Rameezdeen (Senior Lecturer, University of South Australia).



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

TEAM TITANS TO COMPETE AT THE MICROSOFT IMAGINE CUP FINALS



Team Titans of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering which invented the product “INHALO” has been selected to compete at the Microsoft Imagine Cup Finals in July this year. The product is developed to assist children with asthma. Dimuthu Kariyawasam, Buddhi Ayesha and Keet Sugathadasa addressed the issue of treating asthma using the product as a motivation to carry out proper breathing practices and continuous inhaler-use. The headset attached to the product identifies breathing patterns of the user. The product comes with a mobile game that encourages children to use the inhaler and get healthier as they play. The team will take their next step of the competition in July at Seattle, USA as worldwide finalists.

ENTC STUDENTS SELECTED FOR TRAINING PROGRAMME IN JAPAN

Five final year students from the Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering are to attend a training programme at the Research Institute for Nanodevice and Bio Systems, Hiroshima University in Japan. The programme will be on the design and fabrication of CMOS IC circuits and will include transistor and CMOS circuit design, fabrication of CMOS chips and electric measurement of CMOS circuits. This is a unique opportunity for students to be exposed to a high-tech lab in the growing field of IC design and the Department looks forward to further collaborations of this nature.

FYP TEAM WIN BEST PAPER AWARD IN CHINA

The FYP team- Yasara Dissanayake, Asela Priyadarshana, Chathurika Hewawitharane, and Buddhika Jayawardane of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering supervised by Mr. Nalin Karunasinghe and Dr. Chandana Gamage won the best paper award at the second IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Image Processing held in Whuhan, China. The paper is about an optical sorting machine for grain and tea sorting. The system uses a range of classification methods from Neural Networks to Naive Bayes in order to classify grains and black tea for various colours and sizes.



EXHIBITIONS, FIELD TRIPS & WORKSHOPS

FIELD VISIT ON MODERN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURES IN SRI LANKA

The Transportation Engineering Division of the Department of Civil Engineering accompanied Semester 05 students of the department on a field visit to Hambantota to introduce them to some major transportation infrastructure of the country. On this two-day field visit (March 25 and 26) the students visited Matara-Beliatta railway project, Southern expressway extension project, Mattala international airport and Hambantota harbour. At all stops students were given the chance to interact with site engineers, inspect construction activities, operations and further strengthen their field related knowledge.

Lodging for students was provided at Katharagama and students were given the chance to visit the Katharagama Sacred Temple too. Some lecturers and instructors of the Department also took part in the field visit.



99X TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP TO MORA FIT

A workshop session was held on April 06 by 99X Technology to give the Batch 14 students of the Faculty of IT an exposure to IT industry with regard to the opportunities the industry offers including its current and future trends. Importance of management in IT was highlighted during this session.

The session included two guest talks conducted by two members of the company management team and a session giving hands-on experience to hybrid mobile application development was conducted by past students of the faculty.

Fifteen students who reflected sound performance at the session were picked and were given the opportunity to attend mock interview sessions held by 99X Technology on April 25 at 99XT premises.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLINIC

The Entrepreneurship Clinic organized by the MBA in Entrepreneurship 2017 batch was held on April 01 at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. The key note speech was delivered by Dr. Nayana Dehigama and Mr. PJ Jayasinghe (Rtd) from Bank of Ceylon, Mr. Sancharith Jayathilake from Geometry Global Pvt Ltd, Mr. Saliya Withana and Mr. Chrishantha Jayasinghe from Sarva Integrated Pvt Ltd conducted the sessions on Finance, Digital Marketing, HR and other important aspects in Entrepreneurship. Prof. Rahula Attalage, Prof. Kapila Perera and Prof. ND Gunawardhana addressed the occasion and academic staff, invitees and the entrepreneurs from outside also participated in the event.

ADB WORKSHOP ON “URBANIZATION IN INDIA AND CHINA” AT GALADARI

Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) held a workshop on Urbanization in India and China on April 05 and 06 at Hotel Galadari in Colombo. The Departments of Transport & Logistics Management and the Department of Town & Country Planning assisted in hosting this event with ADBI. Senior Professor Amal Kumarage welcomed the guests and chaired the first session. Later, the guests from China and India visited the University of Moratuwa in the light of strengthening the relationship for future collaborations.



FIT FUTURE CAREERS 2017



“FIT Future Careers” is the annual career fair organized by the Information Technology Society (INTECS) of the Faculty of Information Technology. It is the in-house recruitment programme of the students of the Faculty who are graduating this year. FIT Future Careers 2017 was held on April 07 to blaze the career path of 250+ students, who will be graduating with BSc (Hons) in Information Technology and BSc (Hons) in Information Technology and Management degrees. Initiating the day’s proceedings was the opening ceremony at the Civil Engineering auditorium with the participation of several dignitaries including the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology, delegates from the sponsor companies, academic and non-academic staff, members from INTECS and undergraduates of the IT faculty. The Career Fair was sponsored by “MillenniumIT Software”, “Creative Software”, Navantis IT (Pvt) Ltd., “VirtusaPolaris (Pvt) Ltd.”, “Quantech Services (Pvt) Ltd.”, “Eleos Web”, “DirectFN”, “Omobio (Pvt) Ltd.”, “Auxenta (Pvt) Ltd.” and “CAM Management Solutions”.



The welcome address was delivered by the President of INTECS, Mr. Anoukh Jayawardena. The Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor then addressed the gathering. Secretary of INTECS, Mr. Ramindu Senarath, delivered the Vote of Thanks. Following this interview sessions for the final year students were held at the faculty premises with the participation of 35 companies in total. “DirectFN”, “Omobio (Pvt) Ltd.”, “hSenid Mobile Solutions” and “SimCentric Technologies” companies conducted technical sessions for the undergraduates of the Levels 1, 2 and 3. Student-Industry forum, a panel discussion was held at the Civil Engineering auditorium parallel to the interviews. The main aim was to benefit the final year students and the third year students who are about to start their internship. The moderator for the day was Ms. Shenali Welikala a third year undergraduate from the IT Faculty. Reaching a milestone in the history of “FIT Future careers” this year, INTECS launched a web site apace

with the career fair (<http://intecs.itfac.mrt.ac.lk>). It includes all details regarding the final year students and the companies that collaborated with the event. In addition a book containing short profiles of all the students who are about to graduate this year was also released on the day of the event. The event was a success with immense support from many individuals.

ILUMINAR 2017



Iluminar 2017, the career fair organised by the Society of Transport and Logistics for the final year students of Department of Transport and Logistics Management, was successfully held on March 08 at the Department of Transport and Logistics Management. Prof. Kapila Perera, Dean of Faculty of Engineering, participated as the Chief Guest and academic and non-academic staff of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management, industry partners for the “Iluminar 2017”, other industry participants, alumni and undergraduates of the department participated for the event.

“Iluminar 2017” is an in-house recruitment programme focussing on the undergraduates of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management who will graduate in March 2017. The main purpose of this event is to set up a platform to provide a wide range of employment opportunities for undergraduates while enabling leading organisations from the industry to select the most suitable set of employees according to their requirement, and to promote the Transport and Logistics Management degree programme within the industry and enhance the confidence of the final year undergraduates by providing them with the experience of facing interviews can be considered as the additional outcomes of the event.

SAGT (South Asia Gateway Terminal) joined hands with the event as the Exclusive Strategic Event Partner for Iluminar 2017. Hayleys Advantis joined as the Gold Iluminar partner while Brandix and EFL became Strategic Iluminar partner and Gold Event partner respectively.



TRAVEL & VISITS

DELEGATES FROM DAAD VISIT UOM

Dr. Manjula Mundakana, Senior Adviser for Consulate General for Germany in Bangalore, India and German Ambassador for Sri Lanka, Mr. Jorn Rohde visited University of Moratuwa on March 08 and discussed staff and student exchange programmes and joint degree programmes. The University of Moratuwa specified research interest areas as renewal energy, nanotechnology to electronic materials, building services and biomedical engineering.



The Vice-Chancellor Prof Ananda Jayawardane chaired the meeting which was attended by the Deans of Faculties, the Director, International Affairs and Dr. Janaka Wijesundara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture, who is the Research Ambassador for DAAD.

VISIT FROM SHANDONG UNIVERSITY

Prof. Han Baokun, Vice Dean of College of Mechanical and Electronic Engineering, Prof. Chen Qingguang, Director of Department of Mechanotronics and Prof. Yang Jurru, Director of Department of Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering, Shangdon University of China visited University of Moratuwa on April 25 and discussed staff and student exchange programmes, joint research programmes and a research centre concept on Mechatronics.

The Vice-Chancellor chaired the meeting which was attended by the Director, International Affairs.



DR. MAHINDA BANDARA VISITS TOKYO TECH

Dr. Mahinda Bandara, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Transport and Logistics Management participated as a visiting scholar in the 22nd TSU (Transport Studies Unit) Seminar at Tokyo Tech, Ookayama Campus on March 16. This seminar focused on Transport Policies in Asia: Cases from Sri Lanka and Indonesia and Dr. Bandara spoke on “Developing a Regulatory Framework for Informal Transport Sector” representing Sri Lanka.



PROF ANDREW SHARMA VISITS DEPARTMENT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Prof Andrew Sharma, a Professor of Communication Arts at the University of Salisbury, USA, and Fulbright Senior Scholar, visited the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of the Faculty of Information Technology from March 20 to 25. The primary objective of the visit was to initiate collaborative research in the area of cross-cultural consumer communication and effective message strategy. The other objective was to explore the possibility of engaging in a student exchange programme between University of Salisbury and University of Moratuwa. During his stay in the department, Prof. Sharma was involved in many research discussions with both students and the staff of the university. As a result, a collaborative research between Prof. Sharma and Dr. Leelanga Seneviratne is already underway. The department is looking forward to strengthen the ties between the two universities in the future.



PROFESSOR PRINATH DIAS ATTENDED THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY GROUP ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION

Professor Prinath Dias of the Department of Electrical Engineering recently attended the annual meeting of the Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Cooperation (SAGTAC) held at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. SAGTAC is an advisory committee appointed by the Director General of the IAEA to advise him on the Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA. The SAGTAC of 2017 deliberated on Ensuring High Quality of the TC Programme and on Partnerships as Enablers of Technical Cooperation Programme for 2018-2019 and held a joint session with the Standing Advisory Group on Nuclear Applications (SAGNA). The Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA provides technical assistance to developing countries to utilize nuclear technologies in medical, industrial, agricultural and power sectors. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Emma Torres, Senior Adviser to Regional Director for Latin America and Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



VISIT FROM UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA

Dr. Thayaparan Gajendran, Associate Professor at the University of Newcastle, Australia, visited the Department of Building Economics on March 04. In line with the visit, a guest lecture on the topic “Literature Review” was organized for the benefit of the final year undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics and the postgraduate students of the Faculty of Architecture. Dr. Gajendran discussed the research process and the techniques employed in conducting a thorough literature review in the lecture. The lecture was followed by a discussion with Department staff members on possible research collaboration.



VISIT FROM LUMS

Dr. Jawad Syed, - Dean & Professor at Suleman Dawood School Of Business at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan visited University of Moratuwa March 10 as a part of their international expansion strategy to network with academic institutions and to admit Sri Lankan students to MBA programmes of LUMS under full scholarships funded by the Asian Development Bank. LUMS is keen on partnership building in the areas of Research collaborations, case writing, faculty collaborations and other form of partnerships. Mr. Chaminda Hettiarachchi, visiting lecturer, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Coordinated between LUMS and UoM. The Vice-Chancellor chaired the meeting which was attended by the Director, International Affairs, Prof. Gihan Dias and the Dean Faculty of Business, Prof. Niranjana Gunawardena.



APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENT

PROFESSOR SS WICKRAMASURIYA FELICITATED FOR 42 YEARS OF SERVICE

Prof. SS Wickramasuriya, Associate Professor of the Department of Civil Engineering, retired on 31st December 2016 after completing nearly 42 years of service to the University of Moratuwa.

A felicitation ceremony for Prof. Wickramasuriya organized by the Dean, Faculty of Engineering was held on March 02 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Engineering prior to the commencement of the Faculty Board Meeting. A memento was presented to Prof. Wickramasuriya by the Dean. Prof Wickramasuriya addressed the gathering reminiscing about his experiences in the University and giving some timely words of advice before saying goodbye to the Faculty. The members of the Faculty wish him a long, healthy and happy life ahead.

LECTURER APPOINTMENTS

Mr. K.H.J. Mangala has been appointed to the post of Lecturer (probationary) in the Department of Mechanical Engineering with effect from 15.03.2017.

Mr. P.H.V. Nimarshana has been appointed to the post of Lecturer (probationary) in the Department of Mechanical Engineering with effect from 15.03.2017.

Mr. S.W.M.A.I. Senevirathne has been appointed to the post of Lecturer (probationary) in the Department of Mechanical Engineering with effect from 17.04.2017.

PROMOTIONS

Prof. JMSJ Bandara has been promoted to the grade of Senior Professor with effect from 21.07.2011 in the Department of Civil Engineering. He holds a BSc Engineering from the University of Moratuwa and PhD from the University of Calgary. He is the current Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and has the distinction of being the first Director Undergraduate Studies of the Faculty of Engineering and Founder Head of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management.

Dr. (Mrs.) S.S.M.R. Samarawickrama has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Integrated Design with effect from 01.01.2017. She holds a Bachelor of Design from the University of Moratuwa, Master of Arts from the Open University of Sri Lanka, and PhD from the University of Moratuwa.

Dr. (Ms.) H. Chandanie has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Building Economics with effect from 01.02.2017. She holds a BSc in Quantity Surveying and PhD from the University of Moratuwa.

Dr. (Mrs.) K.G.A.S. Waidyasekara has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II with effect from 01.09.2016 in the Department of Building Economics. She holds a BSc in Quantity Surveying, MSc and PhD, all from the University of Moratuwa.



COMPETITIONS & CULTURAL EVENTS

MORA VENTURES 1.0

Mora Ventures 1.0, the pitching challenge was held on 4th April 2017 at CSE seminar room in University of Moratuwa. Mora Ventures 1.0 was a month line up with 40 startups competing for the title. Selected 10 startups pitched their products followed by Q&A in front of a renowned Panel of Judges. Mora Ventures is a platform focused to encourage the budding entrepreneurs from University of Moratuwa. The focus is not limited to tech startups but all other business ideas, social innovations and products which can make a difference in the world.

Prof. Ananda Jayawardane, Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa attended as the Chief Guest for the evening. In addition, Prof. Kapila Perera, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Rohan Munasinghe, Head of Department of Electronics and Telecommunication, Dr. Thusitha Sugathapala, Director Enterprise, Dr. Sathis Namasivayam, Director, Career Guidance Unit, Eng. (Mrs) Vishaka Nanayakkara, Senior Advisor, Entrepreneurship Society and Eng. Nishal Samarasekera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Transport and Logistics Management, University of Moratuwa also welcomed representing the university.

Ms. Niloo Jayathilake, Head of Investments, Soft Logic and Mr. Ravi Bamunusinghe, Managing Director, Research Consultancy Bureau also participated in the event.

Welcoming the gathering, Mr. Heminda Jayaweera, IFS Endowed Senior Fellow in Innovation and Entrepreneurship explained the Mora Ventures programme and its objectives.

Prof. Ananda Jayawardane, the Chief Guest of the event delivered a captivating address where he mentioned the activities done by University of Moratuwa to promote innovation and entrepreneurship within.

The Panel of Judges for the evening comprised of Mr. Fariq Cader, Chief Digital Service Officer, Dialog Axiata Plc., Mr. Hasitha Premarathne, Chief Financial Officer, Brandix, Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda, President, IESL, Mr. Rohan Jayaweera, COO, Antyra Solutions and Mr. Reeza Zarook, CEO, Rukula.

After 10 final pitches by the teams, the judges took the stage to give their feedback. The winners were scored on Cofounders' Talent, Commitment, Innovation of Product Idea, Business Plan and Go-to-Market Strategies. Nurone Labs lead by Insaf Ismath emerged as the winners of Mora Ventures 1.0 bagging LKR 100,000 of prize money. Team Universal Solutions lead by Dinuka Salwathura won LKR 20,000 being the first runners' up and Team Business as Usual led by Madhushan Pathirana won the third place and prize money of LKR 10,000. Prize money was awarded by Effective Solutions Pvt Ltd. It is a startup from University of Moratuwa focusing on Internet of Things (IoT) platform, which has now opened their offices in Japan and United Kingdom. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Keerthi Kodithuwakku, CEO, Effective Solutions reassured their support mentioning all the teams should work towards success. Also he elaborated that Mora Ventures can easily become a sustainable venture initiative in Sri Lanka supported by startups coming out of the programme.

IFS has been the supporter of the university's all innovation and entrepreneurial activities for several years. Mr. Pubudu Liyanage, Director of Human Resources, IFS remarked that they are proud to be a strength to University of Moratuwa's young entrepreneurs.

The competition will be repeated every quarter, and winners will get a chance to pitch their startups in front of a panel comprised of international level VCs / Angel Investors at the year-end's 'Grand Pitch' event. According to the committee, Mora Ventures 2.0 is already planned to start from the month of June 2017.

University of Moratuwa is aiming on building a strong committed set of entrepreneurs who can change Sri Lanka within next 10 years. It has planned initially to look at the commitment level and support that selected set of startups to reach the valuation of USD 1 Million by end 2018. The vision of Mora Ventures Programme of the University of Moratuwa is to strive until we find Sri Lanka's first unicorn (USD 1 Billion Startup) by year 2027.



CADMO 2017 - Parametric Modeling Competition using SolidWorks

CADMO 2017, the inaugural 'parametric modeling competition using SolidWorks' was held concurrently with the science and technology exhibition, aka EXMO 2017, on April 28 2017. The competition was organized by the University of Moratuwa Mechanical Engineering Society (UMMES) with the leadership of intake – 2013 of Department of Mechanical Engineering under the supervision of academic staff. The financial assistance for the event was provided by the main sponsor, ACECAM (Pvt.) Ltd and the Co-Sponsor 3D Tech Prototyping Company (Pvt.) Ltd. Engineering undergraduates and technical students representing various disciplines of Engineering took part in the competition representing University of Peradeniya, University of Moratuwa, University of Ruhuna, General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University, Ceylon German Technical Training Institute and Advanced Technology Institute.



The competition was judged by a five member panel comprised of distinguished personnel from elite national universities and well known personalities in the field of Design Engineering. The modelling task and evaluation guidelines was first introduced by the head of panel of judges, Mr. K. H. J. Mangala, Lecturer of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. In total 24 teams participated in the competition with great enthusiasm.

The evaluation process lasted over three hour duration and subsequently a team representing University of Moratuwa was proclaimed as the winner of CADMO 2017 competition. The runner-up and 2nd runner-up titles were claimed by teams representing University of Peradeniya. All winning teams were presented with cash prizes and certificates of achievement and others with certificates of participation.

The University of Moratuwa Mechanical Engineering Society has taken the initiative to make the CADMO competition an annual event of the Department and continue the legacy started in the year 2017.



CIVIL APE AWURUDU 2017

The Civil Engineering Society Civil Ape Avurudu to mark the Sinhala and Tamil New Year on April 06 at the Department premises. The Department was gaily decorated with Kolam drawn by the Tamil students and a traditional village cottage in the Department lawn. The festival was graced by the Vice-Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Head of Department. After the traditional boiling of the milk by the 2015 intake students and the lighting of the oil lamp, the traditional food table was opened by the Vice-Chancellor. This was followed by the crowning of the Avurudu Kumaraya and Kumariya, and traditional Avurudu games which were conducted with much enthusiasm. Winners of the games were awarded attractive prizes. A dance by students of the 2015 intake was also part of the proceedings.



MBA MOT NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

The New Year Festival organized by the MBA in MOT 2017 students of the Department of Management of Technology was held on April 29 at Aqua Pearl hotel in Moratuwa. The head of Department Dr. GD Samarasinghe, academic staff, non academic staff and MBA in MOT 2016 and 2017 students participated in the occasion.



SARASAWIYAI KOWUL NADAI 2017

“Sarasawiyai Kowul Nadai 2017”, the New Year festival organized by the Student Union of the Faculty of Information Technology was held on April 27 at the University premises. The event was graced by the presence of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and Dean and staff of the Faculty of IT. The celebrations commenced at an auspicious time with the lighting of the hearth and boiling a pot of milk. After the lighting of the traditional oil lamp, all participants were invited to enjoy delicious New Year sweetmeats, while students performed a vibrant traditional dance.

The New Year games followed the formalities, and continued throughout the day, with the enthusiastic participation of the students and staff. The winners of the games were awarded gifts at the end of a fun-filled day. A classical musical fiesta, the “Padura”, with musical performances by students of the Faculty, marked the conclusion of a memorable and spectacular event.



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Editor : Eng SN Niles
[E-mail: niles@uom.lk]
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Library
University of Moratuwa
Katubedda, Moratuwa, 10400
Sri Lanka
E-mail: melromendis@gmail.com
info@lib.mrt.ac.lk

