

## AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

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## UOM ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET FOR ITS NEW VICE CHANCELLOR



Prof. Kapila Perera assumed duties as the new Vice Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa (UoM) on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017, taking over the baton from Prof. Ananda Jayawardane.

Prof. Perera has an illustrious academic and professional career. After obtaining his BSc Engineering from University of Moratuwa, he followed his postgraduate studies at University of California, Davis and was awarded both Masters and PhD degrees in Mechanical Engineering from that university in 1989 and 1993 respectively. He initially served in the regular force of the Sri Lanka

Navy where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, before joining the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the University in 1995 and rising to a professorship in 2008.

Prof. Perera's research interests include turbulent heat transfer and combustion modeling, energy sources, renewable energy technologies and co-generation. He has authored numerous scholarly papers and presented papers at national and international conferences.

He has served the university in various capacities such as Director – Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa (ITUM), Director – Staff Development Centre, President – UMTA and Head – Department of Mechanical Engineering. At national level, he has served as the Chairman of National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Director General of Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE), and Vice Chairman of Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB). His impressive track record bears testimony to Prof. Perera's extraordinary disposition of intelligence, astuteness, and agility. He is well positioned to propel UoM to its next level over the next three years.

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## Vice Chancellor's Message



For the past 50 years, University of Moratuwa has educated talented youth from diverse backgrounds and transformed them to high-quality professionals, academics and leaders. The efforts of my predecessors, with the support of councils, staff, students, alumni, industry and society, have elevated the University of Moratuwa to its present status.

Rapid and complex changes of geopolitics, economics and environment are inevitable. Thus our future students, staff and graduates will interact in diverse ways with a quite different world than today. With ambitious development and economic goals, national-level human capital development should strategically employ new technologies, innovations and entrepreneurship. The higher education landscape in the country will be affected by rapidly developing technologies, democratisation of access to knowledge and the formation of international platforms to address major global challenges. Education will continue to be a vital force in promoting inclusiveness, building social cohesion and attaining economic resilience. Hence, the University of Moratuwa, as a leading university in Sri Lanka, will face the challenge of living up to its vision and meeting national needs with international quality.

My vision is to steer the University to be responsive and adaptive in making Sri Lanka a knowledge-based economy. Our university will go beyond knowledge generation to apply knowledge and skills to build social cohesion, inclusiveness and economic resilience for growth. Our mission consists of three strong pillars:

- teaching and research,
- governance, and
- service to the society.

Without these, our vision will only be a dream. This is our strategy to be a vibrant, world-class university.

## Annual Awards Ceremony of the University of Moratuwa for 2017

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The Annual Awards Ceremony of the University of Moratuwa for 2017 was held on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at the auditorium of Civil Engineering Department. The Chancellor of the University, Vidya Jyothi, Prof. KKYW Perera presided at the event. Prof. Saman Halgamuge, the Director/Head, Research School of Engineering of the Australian National University delivered the keynote address at the Ceremony. The title of Professor Emeritus was granted to Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjanie Ratnayake at the ceremony as she retired from the University service as a Senior Professor in Civil Engineering. Eighty one academic staff members were presented with awards for outstanding research performances and one academic staff member was awarded the teaching Excellence Award at the ceremony. Outstanding performance by students in their academic work was also recognized. Furthermore staff and students who have won awards and accolades at national and international levels were recognized at the ceremony. Altogether 244 awards and recognitions were given at the Awards Ceremony. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kapila Perera, the Officers of the University and staff and students and special invitees were present at the event.





## RESEARCH INITIATIVES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS & DISSEMINATIONS

### The Opening Ceremony of QBITS Lab

The opening ceremony of QBITS, Sri Lanka's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Lab was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2017 at the University of Moratuwa. The QBITS AI Lab was declared open by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ananda Jayawardane of University of Moratuwa and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Harsha Subasinghe of CodeGen, in the presence of Deans of Faculties and Heads of Departments of the University.



### Civil Engineering Research Symposium 2017

The civil engineering research symposium was one of the most highlighted events of the year 2017. The symposium enlightened the future engineering minds on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the civil engineering auditorium with Prof. SMA Nanayakkara as the Chair and Dr. HK Pasindu as the secretary. The event demonstrated undergraduate research of Batch 12 of Civil Engineering Department. The symposium was held in three sessions, throughout the day, in the presence of a respected panel and civil engineering students. The presentations were made fruitful with thought-provoking questions from the audience. The event ended with senior students sharing their innovative ideas with their fellow juniors.





## The Enterprise is now Ready to House Your Startup



The Enterprise, Sri Lanka's first government university based startup co-working space was declared open by Prof. Ananda Jayawardane, Vice-Chancellor of University of Moratuwa on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the university premises. The Enterprise enabled the university to house nearly 20 startups at present, with further facilities to be added with already proposed private sector partnerships. The Enterprise will be the University of Moratuwa's Center for innovation, entrepreneurship and technology licensing. While providing an open office environment for university startups, it aims to foster collaboration and facilitate further innovation within the university itself.

The co-working space is capable of housing 15 student startups at the start and 3 industry startups (startups by graduates). Each and every selected student startup will be given the opportunity to obtain 2 to 3 seats in the incubator with Wi-Fi, free of charge along with access to the in-house meeting room and the pantry. Also, the three industry startups will be allowed to obtain 5 to 6 seats offered at a discounted rate.

The selection criteria to co-working space are specifically drafted ensuring the selection of most outstanding startups. Currently, University of Moratuwa has brought up nearly 70 startups at various stages in startup life cycle. Mora Ventures, initiated in February 2017, is the ongoing startup incubator at University of Moratuwa. Mora Ventures is expected to take place quarterly until Sri Lanka's first ever unicorn (over USD 1 billion worth startup) is founded by the year 2027.

## International Conference on Information Technology Research (ICITR 2017)

Second International Conference on Information Technology Research (ICITR 2017) was held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. The conference was organized by the Information Technology Research Unit (ITRU), Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa. It provided a forum to share the latest research achievements and practical experiences to meet challenges in the present digital era and to delineate the most significant challenges faced by the businesses and society at large. Series of technical workshops were conducted by Dr. Mohamed Firdhous, Dr. Thilak Chaminda, and Dr. Prasad Jayaweera on 14<sup>th</sup> December as part of the Conference. Prof. Chan-Yun Yang of National Taipei University, Taiwan and Prof. Chinthaka Premachandra, of Shibaura Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan participated as keynote speakers and enlightened the audience with remarkable thoughts.



## Future Drones (Pvt) Ltd., the First Startup Company of the University of Moratuwa Conducts a High-Resolution Drone Survey of Bandaranaike International Airport Premises

Future Drones (Pvt) Ltd., the pioneer drone startup which materialized after a decade of research and development conducted at the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering of the University of Moratuwa, has developed very high-resolution aerial mapping technology for the first time in Sri Lanka. This technology which is based on high resolution imaging, precision RTK (real-time kinematic) GPS tagging, and advance flight performance can give 3cm geotagging accuracy in aerial mapping. The level of performance in aerial mapping has been assessed by the Survey Department of Sri Lanka, and was awarded a contract to create aerial imagery of the Bandaranaike International Airport.





The team had to coordinate with the Civil Aviation Authority, Air Force, Chief of Defence staff, airport authorities and air traffic control in deploying drones within the international airport. Considering the importance of the place, and the sensitive nature of the work, the drone deployment had to be very reliable and precise, and the margin for error was minimal. Drone deployment was only possible from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. every Wednesday due to prevailing air traffic. Disturbances to drone deployment from rainy weather, high winds, and early landing of aircrafts were not rare either. It couldn't have been more challenging, so the team had to even change control parameters from the usual settings. The 3.5kg hand-launched drone CeyTwin was deployed for five flights ranging from 22 minutes to 48 minutes to capture 6.5 km<sup>2</sup> area of the entire airport. Using over 6000 images of 24MPix RTK geotagged images and a set of ground control points it was able to reach 3cm Georeferencing accuracy in this drone survey.

This project can be considered as the ultimate benchmark on the reliability and accuracy of the locally developed drone technology, and this should certainly encourage authorities to build their confidence in using this technology for their respective activities.

## INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

### Mentoring Program – Department of MSE



The mentoring program for the Materials Science and Engineering Undergraduates of '16 Batch was held with the generous support of the past graduates of the Department. This program focused on giving the undergraduates a broader perspective on the opportunities available for MSE graduates, motivating the students for better academic performance, and improving their communication and interpersonal skills. The program consisted of several group mentoring events, facilitated by a number of speakers from industry and academia. Undergraduates participated at group discussions with great enthusiasm. The

program was organized by Dr. Hansinee Sitinamaluwa.



## DICB 2017 – Department of Transport & Logistics Management



The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the industrial consultative board of the Department of Transport & Logistics Management was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the Department of Transport and Logistics Management. Industry specialists representing a wide variety of industries including Hayleys Advantis, IFS, KPMG, McLaren Holdings, SAGT, John Keells Holdings, INSEE Cement, Sri Lankan Airlines, Sathsindu, SLPA and also TLM Alumni who are currently working in the industry along with the academic staff of the Department participated in the meeting.

The panel discussion was chaired by Dr. T Sivakumar, Dr. Indika Sigera, Eng. Ranil Sugathadasa, Dr. Mahinda Bandara, Dr. Varuna Adikariwattage and Eng. Nishal Samarasekera and it consisted of four sessions; industrial training placement for TLM undergraduates, enhancement of analytical and soft skills, enhancement of interactions between the university and industry, and suggestions from the industry.

DICB meeting was a success as both industry and alumni were able to improve the rapport between them through the exchange of views and suggestions with regard to mutual growth.

## Internal Quality Assurance Unit



Internal Quality Assurance Unit was declared open by Prof. Ananda Jayawardane, Vice-Chancellor of University of Moratuwa on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in the new Administrative Building of the University of Moratuwa.

## GUEST LECTURES

### A series of guest lectures - Faculty of Business



Faculty of Business conducted a series of guest lectures on Thursdays in the month of November for its new intake. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. RA Attalage conducted an interactive session on 'Life at University of Moratuwa and University rules and procedures'. Further, Mr. Sujith Gunasekara, Mr. Sumedha Abeywickrama and Mr. Mass Savanghan from ATTUNE conducted a programme to introduce ERP/SAP. CIMA-Global facilitated an interesting guest lecture on communication and personal grooming conducted by Mr. Kumar De Silva. Students found the session highly important and relevant.

## Guest Lecture on Medical device regulation and Overview to FDA Approach



Design and development of medical devices occupies a significant portion in electronics manufacturing industry. Compared to general consumer electronic devices, medical devices are subjected to stricter regulations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the users. Among many regulating standards, United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards of medical device regulation are considered comprehensive guidelines by medical device manufacturers throughout the world. Therefore, it is imperative that undergraduates aspiring to enter the medical device manufacturing industry are aware of this background.

The guest lecture on medical device regulation was successfully held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2017 in the premises of the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering with the participation of undergraduates of several universities. The lecture was facilitated by resource personnel from Synergen Technology Labs, a leading Sri Lankan technology firm specializing in IOT and healthcare devices. Ms. Nuwanthika Rajapaksha and Ms. Udari De Alwis, who are research engineers at Synergen Technology Labs, conducted the session.

The lecture session provided detailed insight into the subject of medical device regulation. Starting from the formal definition of medical devices, the lecture encompassed a wide range of topics including the need for regulation, pre-market and post-market requirements, FDA product classification and FDA guidance documents and best practices.

As a globally recognized standardizing benchmark, FDA standards are of the highest standing and any medical device should comply with them. The lecturers provided clear guidance on the process of successfully obtaining FDA approval for a device that they would design in the future. This is quite beneficial for undergraduates with the potential to design novel medical devices to grab opportunities in the medical device manufacturing industry as entrepreneurs.

The event was organized by the IEEE Engineering and Medicine and Biology Society (IEEE EMBS) Student Branch Chapter of University of Moratuwa. IEEE EMBS is the world's largest international body of biomedical engineers. The student branch chapter of University of Moratuwa acknowledges the support provided by the academic staff of the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication in making the event a success.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### Fashion Design Students' Collaborative Project with Kelly Felder

Second year students (15<sup>th</sup> Batch) of Fashion Design & Product Development Degree programme developed an office wear collection in collaboration with Kelly Felder who works with a vision to deliver fashion-forward designs with international standards. It was a highly successful project which received excellent comments from the consumers.





## CDP Week 2017 – Department of Integrated Design



The major component of the 'CDP Week'; the Comprehensive Design Project (CDP) examination of the Level IV students of Bachelor of Design, Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture was held on 05<sup>th</sup>, 06<sup>th</sup> and 07<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The Examination Panel comprised local and foreign academics of eminence and industrial experts. As a component of the CDP Week, several staff and student workshops were conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December by the foreign Examiners namely, Prof. Kenneth Segal (College of Industrial Design, Israel), Prof. Arun Gupta (Senior Professor, National Institute of Design, India) and Dr. Katherine Moline (Associate Dean-Research Training, UNSW Sydney, Australia).

## A planning session and annual get together of Department of Management Technology



A planning session and annual get together of Department of Management Technology was held on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Laya Beach Hotel in Wadduwa. All academic staff and non-academic staff participated in this event which was followed by a cricket match, a number of games and a lunch.

## Opening of the Fashion Design Building Complex - Department of Textile and Clothing Technology



The Fashion Design Building Complex of the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology at University of Moratuwa was declared open by Emeritus Prof. LD Fernando on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ananda Jayewardena, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dean Faculty of Engineering, Head of the Department, invitees, academic staff, non-academic staff, and students were present at this ceremony.



## FOREIGN VISITS

### Kochi University of Technology, Japan visits University of Moratuwa



Prof. Shinichiro Sakikawa, The Director of International Relations Center, Dr. Ellawala Pradeep, Assistant Professor at Center for Nanotechnology, Kochi University of Technology, Japan visited the University of Moratuwa on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and discussed PhD Programmes, exchange programmes, Joint research programmes and areas important to both parties. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. KKCK Perera presided the meeting where Prof. Gihan Dias, Director, International Relations, Prof. RGN De S Munasinghe, Director Research, Mr. VSC Weragoda, Head, Department of Materials Science and Engineering attended.

### Visit of Research Scholar Prof. Geoffrey Qiping Shen



Prof. Geoffrey Qiping Shen, Associate Dean of Faculty of Construction and Environment of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, visited the Department of Building Economics on 04<sup>th</sup> December 2017. During the visit, several workshops were organised for the benefit of the academic staff of the Department and the University. The topics of discussion were value management (on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2017), publishing in high-end journals (on 07<sup>th</sup> December 2017) research methodology (on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017), and applying for international research grants (on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017). In addition, several discussion rounds were held with researchers of the Department of Building Economics to establish possible research collaborations between the two institutions.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### MoraSquad of Faculty of Information Technology wins first place at Hackathon

A team comprising Hansa Tharuka (team leader), Sandun Isusuru Niraj, Isuru Dilshan Udawaththa, Lakmini Senanayaka, Mahee Gamage and Nishan Chathuranga of the Faculty of Information Technology has developed a product concept named “universal adapter”, a plug and play device with an IoT platform. This adapter supplies interfaces for different types of sensors like temperature, humidity, sonar, etc. Moreover, GPS display, RGB controller, GPS trigger, video streaming with IP camera, time trigger and emergency tweet and email special notification services are embedded in the system. Also, there is an android application to allow customers to buy widgets and customize them accordingly.





The team won the first place at the Hackathon organized by the Young Members' section of IESL. This was held from 13<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> October at BMICH, Colombo in conjunction with the TECHNO SRI LANKA 2017 EXHIBITION. From 55 teams which competed, 15 teams were selected for the finals.

### **“TravelSL” by Faculty of Information Technology, Wins a Merit Award at e-Swabhimani 2017**



E-Swabhimani, an initiative undertaken by the Information Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka, to recognize excellence in digital application creation, was held for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive time this year under the theme “Inspiring creativity and empowering entrepreneurship”. The event was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Galadari, Colombo, where technological entrepreneurs were awarded for their outstanding contribution towards Information Technological development in Sri Lanka.

Representing the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, “TravelSL”, a context-aware and personalized travel recommendation system, developed by Senuri Wijenayake, Sachini Ganiachchi and Janitha Wijekoon under the supervision of Dr. Supunmali Ahangama of Faculty of Information Technology, was able to secure a Merit Award at e-Swabhimani 2017, battling with many other industry giants in the category of “Culture and Tourism”.

“TravelSL” is a mobile application which assists tourists when travelling to places of their personal preference in Sri Lanka. It is the first social media oriented travel recommendation system which extracts the “check-ins” of a Facebook user to identify their genuine travel preferences. Research conducted by the team has resulted in a new user similarity measurement which can determine connections between users more accurately, based on the general Facebook communications among users such as likes, comments, photos uploaded together, etc.



### **Final year project from Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering wins the Manamperi Engineering Award 2017**

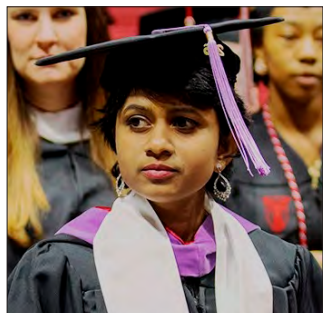
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The final-year project of Didula Dissanayake, Amila Silva, Chathurika Amaratunga, and Namasivayam Piranavaruban titled “Light Field System for Image Based Rendering of Ancient Artifacts” won the prestigious Manamperi Engineering



Award 2017, awarded by Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) for the best engineering final year undergraduate group project carried out in a Sri Lankan university in 2016. The light field rendering system comprises an end-to-end system that automatically acquires images of an artifact kept on a rotating table, makes the 3-D reconstruction, and renders the reconstruction using color information from images. A user can then interact with this high-quality digital archive of the artifact using a mobile device or otherwise, or make a 3-D print. The project was co-supervised by Dr. Chamira Edussooriya and Dr. Ranga Rodrigo.

## Special Seminar by Kaushalya



A special seminar was organized by the Department of Transport and Logistics Management to share the experience of Ms. Kaushalya Hereath during her USA stay for higher education. This event was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 from 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. at the Department auditorium as a part of the monthly guest lecture series.

## Department of Integrated Design Students Win 5 Asia Star and 10 Lanka Star Packaging Awards

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The three students: Supun Dulanga (three awards), Rashandi Porombag (one award) and Dulaj Perera (one award) won five 'Asian Star Packaging Awards for the year 2017' by the Asia Packaging Federation. Meanwhile, five Gold Stars Awards and five Silver Stars Awards were won by Supun Sanjaya, Tharushi Mendis, Supun Dulanga, Kaweesha Munasinghe, Jithmi Wijesinghe, Dulaj Perera, Ruwanthi Medagoda, Rashandi Porombage of the same Department. Each of them were also awarded with a 'Lanka Star Packaging Award in the Student category'. The event was organized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging in collaboration with the Packaging Development Centre, Sri Lanka. The ceremony was held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo, on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

## FlowVision



As urban flooding is on the rise due to unplanned developments, inadequate drainage facilities, and climate change; floods in urban areas have been identified as disastrous not only to the urban environment but also to human life and property. A final year project team; Ruchira Dulani, Yamuna Dulanjani, Dulaj Perera, Lahiru Jayakody under the supervision of Dr. Dilum Bandara and Dr. Chathura de Silva of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering addressed the timely issue by building a flow and water level meter to predict urban flooding, estimating water level and flow rate of underground drainage systems in real time.

As water levels and flow rates can reach higher values and could include debris, it is difficult to use conventional immersive sensors. Moreover, density of the number of installed rugged water level and flow meters in a selected area should be sufficiently high to improve spatial and temporal accuracy of the data. However, flow meters currently in market are relatively expensive. Furthermore, these sensors may be



deployed in areas without direct connectivity to the power grid and Internet. Hence, they must be self-powered and need relatively large communication range. The team has developed non-immersive, low cost flow and water level meter which is a vision-based flow measuring platform. On top of the platform; a product called “FlowV” has been implemented which is an IoT enabled, non-immersive flow meter. The team has tested the product using an apparatus which is made by them for emulating the drainage environment. Some tests were conducted using the drainage flow videos that were recorded by the team in several locations in university premises and around Katubedda area.

## STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

### President's Award

[From front page]

Prof. GL Dharmasri Wickramasinghe was awarded The President's Award for Scientific Publication, at an event held under the patronage of President Maithripala Sirisena at the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.



### Eng. (Prof.) Mrs. Niranjanie Ratnayake was inducted as President of IESL

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Eng. (Prof.) Mrs. Niranjanie Ratnayake was inducted as President of Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka for 2017 / 2018 sessions at the 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, which was ceremonially inaugurated on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the Main Hall, BMICH in the presence of a large gathering of participants. She is a Professor of Civil Engineering at Department of Civil Engineering and her field of specialization is Environmental Engineering.

### Prof. (Mrs). Niranjanie Ratnayake was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus



Prof. Mrs. Niranjanie Ratnayake was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus at the Award Ceremony of University of Moratuwa which was held on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Prof. Mrs. Niranjanie Ratnayake is a senior professor at Department of Civil Engineering. She joined the Department in January 1974 after graduating from University of Peradeniya with first class honours in civil engineering. She has a research Master of Engineering degree from University of Wales, and is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka. She has completed 40 years of praiseworthy service as an academic staff member of the university of Moratuwa, and has served as an academic for a period of 43 years by the time of her retirement.

As an academic staff member at the Department of Civil Engineering, she conducted teaching and academic-related work for the undergraduate students from August, 1974 and for the postgraduate students when the postgraduate programmes commenced in the mid 1980s. Her subject areas were mainly, environmental engineering, water treatment, water supply and environmental management. At the Department of Civil Engineering, she served as the Head of the Environmental Engineering Division from early 1980s to the mid-1990s, and later as the Head of Department from June, 2004 to June 2007. Prior to this, she also served as the Director, Postgraduate Studies of the Faculty of Engineering from August 1999 to June 2004. She was the Director of Operational Technical Secretariat for the World Bank funded Project on Higher Education for the Twenty-First Century (HETC) at the University of Moratuwa from May 2012 to February 2015. She was also the warden of university hostels for female students for about 6 years. She has supervised many research projects at postgraduate level, and has published many research papers in international and local journals and conferences. She has delivered many orations upon invitation, notably the Professor E.O.E. Pereira Memorial Lecture in September, 2009. She is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including



Presidential Award for Research, University of Moratuwa Award for Excellence in Research, Zonta Woman of Achievement Award in Engineering and IT. In January 2016, she received the Engineering Excellence Award for Outstanding Engineering Education awarded by the Institution of EngineerS, Sri Lanka. In addition, she has received several awards for papers presented in conferences and symposia.

She has had training and experience in Environmental Engineering, her field of specialization, in the UK, India, USA, Canada, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Switzerland. She has also worked with academics and has visited universities in Finland, Greece, Spain, India and Thailand. In addition to the teaching and research at the University, she has been working on many projects of national importance, as a water quality expert, environmental engineer, and/or as an EIA specialist. She has led several multidisciplinary teams on environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment studies.

## Book Publication



Dr. Indika De Silva and Prof. Maeda Toshihiko published a book titled “Solid State Laser for Preparation of Oxide Superconductor Films”. Dr. Indika has obtained his PhD on improving the current characteristics of oxide superconductor thin films using pulsed laser deposition method. Prof. Maeda Toshihiko is the Dean, School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Kochi University of Technology, Japan. Prof. K Matsumoto, Kyoto University and Prof. Y Yoshida, Nagoya University extended their assistance during this work.

This text book is designed for superconductor related modules offered in undergraduate engineering programs and useful for research work on synthesis and characterization of oxide superconductor thin films to enhance the electrical properties using solid state laser.

## EXHIBITIONS, FIELD TRIPS & WORKSHOPS

### Workshop on “Entrepreneurship and Innovations”



Department of Industrial Management of Faculty of Business conducted a workshop on “Entrepreneurship and Innovations” for the undergraduates of Faculty of Business, MBA in Management of Technology/Entrepreneurship 2017 batch and undergraduates of Faculty of Engineering who follow the minor degree in Entrepreneurship. The programme was held on November 11, 2017 at the Civil auditorium of University of Moratuwa. It was conducted by well experienced professionals in the industry. Mr. Moksevi Prelis who was a former CEO of DFCC Bank Mr. Shantha Yapa from EPIC Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Hishan Singhlaxana from John Keells Holdings, Mr. Irfan Ahammed and Mr. Sharaz from Dialog Axiata, highlighted the importance of the concept throughout the workshop in different aspects.

### Field Visit to Colombo Port City (Phase I)





Port City Colombo is a brand new city development built as an extension of the Central Business District of Sri Lanka's vibrant commercial capital, Colombo. Under this project the total area of sea to be reclaimed is 269 hectares. It is expected to be an international financial centre. Construction of the Colombo Port City project was launched on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and is expected to complete the landfill in 2019. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, the Civil Engineering Society of University of Moratuwa organized a field visit to port city land reclamation site in Colombo. Dr. LIN De Silva, a senior lecturer in civil engineering headed a team of sixty students who went for the visit.

The objective of the field visit was to get experience on construction. The participating students received detailed explanation of the project plan from main engineer of Port City. Participants also had a chance to visit the landfill area. Eng. Amil Samarasinghe, a reclamation engineer at Colombo Port City development project, explained construction and landfilling to students.

## Field Visit to Mount Clifford Range

A unique blend of affordability and smart living, Mount Clifford Range is believed to offer a desirable combination of modern amenities and facilities in a prime location. A four-storey residential building, Mount Clifford Range is yet to provide well planned and spacious apartments of 640 square feet area. The International Construction Consortium (ICC) has planned to complete the first phase of this project during the second quarter of 2019 while the completion of the second phase is scheduled in the second quarter of 2020. The utilization of precast concrete wall panels for construction was of particular interest to civil engineering students. By courtesy of Dr. Chandana Siriwardana and Eng. Jayanath Raveendra the civil engineering undergraduates of the 2013 Batch of University of Moratuwa were given the opportunity to visit this construction site which is located in Homagama.

## Annual biomedical field visit to Colombo North Teaching Hospital and Technomedics Pvt Ltd



Technomedics (Pvt) Ltd. and Colombo North Teaching Hospital Ragama offered a comprehensive field visit for the Biomedical Engineering Batch of 2015 as a part of module BM2900. The field visit was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 under the guidance of Dr. Anjula de Silva. The Technomedics staff conducted the field visit as a series of lectures which covered a number of medical devices such as ventilators, defibrillators, patient monitoring systems, anaesthetic machines, medical imaging devices, CPAP machines, breathing analysers, sterilizers and many more. The undergraduates had a unique opportunity to get to know the mechanisms, different applications, and the utilization of the devices. Staff members from respective divisions conducted these presentations and the undergraduates could engage in a fruitful dialogue with the staff members about the medical devices that were demonstrated. It was a great opportunity for the BME undergraduates to gain a keen insight into the workings and loopholes of medical devices and how as engineers they can resolve those issues. Lt.Col. Terrance Subasinghe, General Manager of Innovations and Special Projects and the staff at Technomedics (Pvt) Ltd were instrumental in organizing this field visit.

A field visit to Colombo North Teaching Hospital - Ragama took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 under the supervision of Dr. Anjula De Silva. This was conducted for the third consecutive year exposing students to procedures and devices in the Paediatric ward, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Endoscopy Room, CT Scan Area and EEG Section. Head of the Department of Paediatrics, Prof. Shaman Rajindrajith was instrumental in organising this educational visit followed by Dr. Meranthi Fernando, Dr. Tharindi Suriapperuma, Dr. Phirarthana Kamalanathan, Dr. Kanchana Uyangoda and Dr. Dananjaya Gunathilake who shared their expertise with students.



## Workshop on “Interpersonal relationships between Academic staff and Students of University of Moratuwa”

Career Guidance Unit organized a workshop on “Interpersonal relationships between Academic staff and students of University of Moratuwa” on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017. This workshop was funded by the Staff Development Centre. The workshop was conducted by Dr. BMK Perera, Former Director/ Career Guidance Unit of University of Moratuwa.

## Workshop on Management Systems by SLSI



Level 4 Facilities Management undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics participated in a workshop on Management Systems at Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) on 05<sup>th</sup> and 06<sup>th</sup> December 2017. It was a two-day training programme which covered ISO 50001:2011 - energy management systems, OHSAS 18001:2007 system requirements, ISO 9001:2015 - quality management systems requirements, and ISO 14001:2015 - environmental management systems requirements. The lecture panel consisted of Ms. Priyanthi Pigera (Senior Deputy Director, Training Division, SLSI), Ms. Ushani Pallarachchi (Assistant Director-Technical, Training Division, SLSI), Mr. Jayantha Kulasekara (Assistant Director, SLSI) and Mr. Rasika Waduge (Assistant Director, SLSI).

## CLUBS & SOCIETIES

### Annual General Meeting of the Highway Engineering Society



Annual General Meeting of the Highway Engineering Society, Student Chapter of University of Moratuwa was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 with the participation of the Senior Treasurer Prof. WK Mamppearachchi, Adviser Dr. HR Pasindu and members of the society. New office bearers were appointed for the upcoming year and the annual work plan for the next year was discussed.

### Civil Cric Fiesta 2017

“Civil Cric Fiesta 2017” was held successfully on 3<sup>rd</sup> of November at university grounds of University of Moratuwa.





## Guru Gedarata Arunellak 2017



The annual social service campaign organized by the Earth Resources Engineering Society (ERES) was held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017, at Dandeniya Kanishta Vidyalaya, Gammullagoda, Matara. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> successful time the event was conducted since the first ever of its kind in 2015. It is an attempt to elevate the standards of rural school education and develop the awareness of the importance of school education among school children and their parents. Accordingly, a mini laboratory and computer facilities were established in renovated buildings while donating books and sports items for students use. The 2-day program was conducted by the Earth Resources undergraduates with the blessings and sponsorships from the Department and alumni.

## Student Bursaries

The second session of the Earth Resources Engineering Society's (ERES) financial assistance program for 2017 was concluded in November, by awarding 4 bursaries for Earth Resources undergraduates. The program is held twice a year where, mining engineers from Australia provide funds for a total of 6 bursaries, and the other 2 being funded by the Earth Resources Engineering Society.

## "Iluminar 17/18"



The annual career fair for the TLM graduates, "Iluminar 17/18" was held successfully on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at TLM Department. This event was organised by the student body of TLM Department, STL, for the third consecutive time.

The event started with an opening ceremony where company officials were formally welcomed. The welcome speech was done by senior lecturer, Mr. Nishal Samarasekera. With a brief introduction to the Department, and speeches by Deputy Vice-chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, the Opening Ceremony ended. The vote of thanks was delivered by the project chairperson, Mr. Sahan Lakshan. After the formalities, the main objective, which is the interviewing of the graduates took place in two sessions, each taking place in morning and evening. About 20 renowned companies attended the career fair. Within the interview procedure, company coordinators were also given the exposure to communicate with officials. The interviewees were keen to participate in interviews. Students were able to network better with coordinators during lunch. Judge panels representing the companies were satisfied with TLM candidates and they even praised the quality of them.

Along with Iluminar 2017/18, another event took place parallelly. It was the Department Industry Consultative Board (DICB) meeting. In that meeting, inputs from the corporate world regarding the performance of graduates and interns, what is expected of a TLM graduate were discussed extensively. The event would not have been a success without the collective effort of the project chairperson, its organising committee and the undergraduates of TLM.



# APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

## Dean of Faculty of Engineering



**Prof. Nalin Wickramarachchi** Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering was elected as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, at a special meeting of the Faculty Board of Engineering held on 07<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The post of Dean of the Faculty of Engineering fell vacant due to the appointment of Prof. Kapila Perera, to the post of Vice-chancellor, University of Moratuwa.

## Dean of Faculty of Architecture



**Prof. ML De Silva** has been appointed as the Dean of Faculty of Architecture from 01.12.2017 to 05.12.2019.

## Director/ Research



**Prof. RGN De S Munasinghe** has been appointed to the post of director research with effect from August 2017. He is a senior professor attached to the Department of Material Science and Engineering

## Head of the Department



**Dr. GR Ratnayake** has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Town & country planning in the Faculty of Architecture from 02.12.2017 to 01.12.2020.

## Promotions



**Dr. MW Jayaweera** has been promoted to the post of professor in environmental engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering (on merit) with effect from 07.11.2016.



**Dr. JMA Manatunge** has been promoted to the post of professor in environmental engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering (on merit) with effect from 22.11.2016.



**Dr. RU Halwatura** has been promoted to the post of professor in civil engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering (on merit) with effect from 04.08.2016.



**Dr. PG Rathnasiri** has been promoted to the post of professor in Chemical & Process Engineering with effect from 20.02.2017.



**Dr. T Sivakumar** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade 1 with effect from 02.01.2017 in the Department of Transport & Logistics Management.



**Dr. GIP De Silva** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade I with effect from 06.10.2016 in the Department of Materials Science & Engineering.



**Dr. GIP De Silva** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade I with effect from 06.10.2016 in the Department of Materials science & engineering.



**Mr. V Sivahar** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade I with effect from 15.10.2015 in the Department of Materials Science & Engineering.





**Dr. AGBP Jayasekara** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade I with effect from 04.05.2017 in the Department of Electrical Engineering.



**Dr. NWN Dayananda** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade I with effect from 06.10.2014 in the Department of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering.



**Dr. (Ms.) HUCP Hewawasam** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade I with effect from 01.09.2017 in the Department of Town & Country Planning.

**Dr. (Ms.) WO Gamage** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade II with effect from 03.10.2017 in the Department of Architecture.



**Mrs. RMVS Ratnayake** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade I with effect from 24.02.2017 in the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology.



**Dr. LPS Rohitha** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade I with effect from 02.06.2016 in the Department of Earth Resources Engineering.



**Dr. I Mahakalanda** has been promoted to senior lecturer Grade II with effect from 21.04.2017 in the Department of Management of Technology.

## New Appointments

**Dr. Chandana Siriwardana** was appointed as a senior lecturer at Department of Civil Engineering.

**Ms. SM Hirudini** has been appointed to the post of lecturer (probationary) in the Department of Architecture with effect from 03.10.2017.

**Mr. KMS Senevirathne** has been appointed to the post of lecturer (probationary) in the Department of Management of Technology with effect from 15.08.2017.

**Ms. Nawodi Samarasiri** has been appointed as a lecturer (on contract) in the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business with effect from 10th of November 2017.

## CULTURAL EVENTS

### Civil Night 2017

The glamorous evening opened the curtains for one of the most prominent events of Department of Civil Engineering. It was Civil Night 2017, a night filled with entertainment and mirth. The Civil Night 2017 was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017. It started with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp by distinguished Guest of Honor for the day; the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering & the lecturers of the Department who were present to sparkle the event. The stage was then illuminated by music, dance item and drama. A short quiz competition was also held place during the event.





## ERE Unplugged 17 – The eternal musical sensation of young hearts



A musical event organized by the Earth Resources Engineering Society, was held at the James George Hall, on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The event was mainly funded by the ERE graduates in the industry, creating a platform for undergraduates to showcase their talents in dancing and singing with their own group of musicians. Engineering Faculty Dean, Prof. Kapila Perera's presence and his motivational speech acknowledging the efforts of students, was one of the highlights of this colorful evening. Photos courtesy of Kanishka Dilshan.

## Pirith Chanting Ceremony

University of Moratuwa successfully organized a 'Pirith Chanting Ceremony' followed by an alms giving, with the purpose of evoking blessings for the New Administrative building and the community at large. The event was held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 at the premises of the New Administrative Building.



## TRAVEL & VISIT

### Visit to China



Mr. SN Bentotage, Head, Department of Transport and Logistics Management, Ms. Thivya Amalan and Ms. Shashini Sanjeevani (lecturers) participated in a workshop organized by Beijing Jiaotong University, China on "High-speed Railway" from 11<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017. Potential collaborations in railway and logistics education at graduate and post-graduate levels were discussed at the above event other than the informative sessions on high-speed railway in China. Shandong Polytechnic, one of the prominent technical colleges related to railway transportation also was also visited by them during their stay in China.

## UOM ALUMNI

### Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), USA



Prof. Udaya K Madawala of The University of Auckland, New Zealand, has been named Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), USA. He is being recognized for his contribution to power electronics for bi-directional wireless power transfer (WPT). The IEEE Grade of Fellow is conferred by the IEEE Board of Directors upon a person with an outstanding record of accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest. The total number selected in any one year cannot exceed one-tenth of one- percent of the total voting membership. IEEE Fellow is the highest grade of membership and is recognized by the technical community as a prestigious honour and an important career achievement.

Prof. Udaya gained recognition for developing theory and control philosophy to enable 'wireless' bi-directional power flow. His work, demonstrated through implementation, has been instrumental in making both 'wireless' V2G and V2H concepts a reality. This technology is ideal for any applications that require two-way wireless power transfer and, therefore, has been licensed for commercialization. Prof. Udaya's contribution to power electronics is not limited only to bi-directional WPT, but extend to electronic power conversion systems used in motor drives and renewable energy systems.



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*Merry Christmas*



*Happy New Year*