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FEATURE
ARTICLE

ReXtro 2025: Celebrating 25 Years of Engineering Innovation and Excellence

Faculty of Engineering

32nd Convocation of the University of Ruhuna

The 32nd Convocation of the University of Ruhuna was held on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of December 2025 at the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium. Degree awardees from all ten faculties participated in the ceremony, during which 166 postgraduate degrees, 2,812 internal degrees, 149 external degrees, and 2 honorary degrees were conferred by His Most Venerable Dr. Akuratiye Nanda Thero, Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna. In addition, 96 gold medals were awarded to graduates in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements.

The convocation was conducted by the Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha, while the Deans of the respective faculties announced their degree awardees. The degrees were awarded across seven sessions over the three-day event, each of which commenced with an academic procession comprising the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Deans, Librarian, Registrar, and academic and administrative staff of the university.

Day 1 : 10th December 2025

Session 1 conferred postgraduate degrees and undergraduate degrees in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Botany, Mathematics, Physics, Zoology, and Chemistry, as well as the Degree of Bachelor of Science (General).

Session 2 conferred postgraduate degrees and undergraduate degrees in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Agribusiness Management, Agricultural Resource Management and Technology, and Green Technology, along with the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

Day 2 : 11th December 2025

Session 3 awarded postgraduate and first degrees to graduates of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, including the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Buddhist Studies in Buddhist Culture, Buddhist Stud-



ies in Buddhist Philosophy, Economics, English, History, Sinhala, and Social Statistics. The Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours) and Bachelor of Computer Science (General) degrees were also conferred during this session.

Mr. Sunil Sarath Perera, one of the most enduring and versatile figures in Sri Lankan literary and cultural life, and an acclaimed poet, lyricist, and administrator whose service to the nation spans over five decades was honored by the University of Ruhuna with an honorary doctorate (*Sahithyasoori*) in recognition of his significant contributions to literature. He delivered the convocation address for this session.



Session 4 conferred postgraduate degrees in Sociology and Peace and Development Studies, along with undergraduate degrees including the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Geography, Political Science, and Sociology, as well as the Bachelor of Arts (Special), Bachelor of Arts (General), and Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Sinhala, for graduands of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Graduands of the Faculty of





Allied Health Sciences were also awarded the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Medical Laboratory Science, Nursing, and Pharmacy.

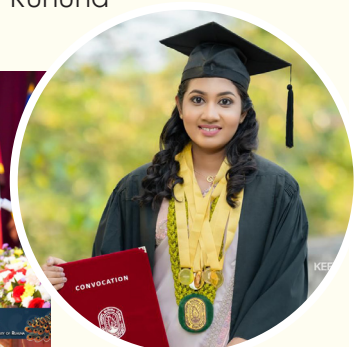
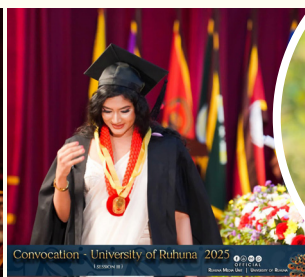
Day 3 : 12th December 2025

Session 5 conferred postgraduate degrees along with the Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Honours), Bachelor of Biosystems Technology (Honours), Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology (Honours), Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Fisheries and Marine Sciences, and Marine and Freshwater Sciences degrees.

During this session, Professor Emerita P.R.T. Cumararatunga, a pioneering member of the academic staff of the University of Ruhuna, founding Dean, and former Senior Professor of Fisheries Biology in the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology was honored



with the Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa). She was the first Professor of Fisheries Biology (Chair) within the higher education system of Sri Lanka. In recognition of her contributions to the University of Ruhuna over four decades, and to the national development of Sri Lanka, this honor was most deservedly bestowed upon her. Professor Cumararatunga delivered the convocation address for this session, titled "Moral Responsibility and Social Consciousness Towards Reforms in Education."



Session 6 of the 32nd Convocation, conferred the Master of Business Administration, Master of Business Administration together with Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Accounting, Human Resource Management, and Business Management.

The last session, offered Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Entrepreneurship and Marketing degree for graduands of the Faculty of Management and Finance, along with the Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Honours). The session concluded with the conferral of 149 Bachelor of Arts degrees upon graduands who completed the Bachelor of Arts (External) programme.

Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal and Academic Excellence

Each year, the most outstanding undergraduate students selected on the basis of academic performance and extracurricular achievements, including sports are honored with the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal. The recipients for the 32nd Convocation were: Miss W.N. Deshani De Silva (Faculty of Graduate Studies), Miss H.M.C.J. Gunawardhana (Faculty of Science), Mr M.A.J. Induwara (Faculty of Medicine), Miss M.R.F. Rifka (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences), Mr D.S. Jayakody (Faculty of Engineering), Miss G.H.P. Ganegoda (Faculty of Technology), and Mr T. Abewickrama (Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology).

Subject-specific gold medals were also awarded to students demonstrating exceptional academic performances. Among them, Miss Dahami Samindi Wickramasinghe of the Faculty of Agriculture received the highest number of awards, earning five gold medals. In total, 96 gold medals were bestowed by the Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna during this convocation.

ReXtro 2025: Celebrating 25 Years of Engineering Innovation and Excellence

The Faculty of Engineering of the University of Ruhuna proudly marked a historic milestone in 2025, celebrating 25 years of academic excellence, innovation, and transformative impact.



To commemorate this Silver Jubilee, the Faculty organized ReXtro 2025, a grand technical exhibition that reflected the journey, achievements, and future aspirations of engineering education at Ruhuna. More than an exhibition, ReXtro 2025 served as a celebration of vision, resilience, and progress, bringing together students, academics, alumni, industry professionals, and the wider community on one inspiring platform.

Over the past quarter century, the Faculty of Engineering has evolved into a center of academic distinction and technological advancement in Sri Lanka. Generations of engineers nurtured within its halls now contribute significantly to national infrastructure, global industries, and technological innovation. ReXtro 2025 was therefore not only a showcase of present achievements but also a tribute to a legacy built upon dedication, perseverance, and excellence.

The inauguration ceremony of ReXtro 2025 marked a dignified beginning to the three-day celebration. The event was graced by the Honorable Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Chrishantha Abeysena, who attended as the Chief Guest. The presence of senior university officials, distinguished academics, industry leaders, alumni, and members of the wider community added prestige and significance to the occasion. The ceremonial lighting of the traditional oil lamp symbolized knowledge and new beginnings. In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized the transformative role of engineering innovation in national development and commended the faculty for its remarkable contributions over the past 25 years.

The scale of public engagement throughout the exhibition reflected its remarkable success. Over the

three-day event, ReXtro 2025 attracted more than 30,000 participants, demonstrating the widespread interest and enthusiasm it generated among students, professionals, school communities, and the general public. This impressive turnout stands as a clear testament to the exhibition's impact and its significance as a landmark event in the Faculty's Silver Jubilee celebrations.



At the heart of the exhibition was an impressive showcase of multidisciplinary engineering projects. Undergraduate research initiatives, final year design prototypes, and collaborative innovations demonstrated the depth of knowledge and creativity within the faculty. Projects spanned electrical power systems, renewable energy technologies, robotics, smart automation, artificial intelligence, IoT applications, embedded systems, and sustainable infrastructure solutions. Each innovation reflected rigorous research, technical precision, and a commitment to solving real world challenges.

Particularly commendable were projects focused on energy sustainability, smart agriculture, disaster mitigation, and community centered technological solutions. Interactive demonstrations enabled visitors to engage directly with project teams, creating a vibrant atmosphere of inquiry, discussion, and inspiration.

ReXtro 2025 extended beyond a traditional exhibition through a series of dynamic competitions and knowledge sharing platforms. Flagship events such as Haxtreme, Xbotix, MathQuest, TechTalks, and PitchArena, the island wide innovation competition,



attracted participants from across the country and showcased excellence in coding, robotics, analytical thinking, startup ideation, and creative engineering design. The SLT Hackathon and Conference further strengthened the technological dimension of the event, connecting aspiring developers with industry professionals and emerging digital trends. Together, these initiatives transformed ReXtro 2025 into a multi-dimensional experience that extended far beyond a conventional exhibition.

Industry engagement remained a defining feature throughout ReXtro 2025. Professionals from leading engineering and technology sectors participated as evaluators, advisors, and observers, offering constructive feedback and valuable insights to both the exhibiting teams and competition participants. Their involvement strengthened the connection between academic training and industry expectations while also opening opportunities for internships, research collaborations, and technology driven initiatives. ReXtro 2025 was not limited to engineering and technology alone. Dedicated zones celebrating art and creativity highlighted the holistic development of students within the faculty, emphasizing that innovation flourishes alongside imagination and cultural expression. Evenings came alive with musical performances, stage dramas, and cultural showcases



organized by students, transforming the exhibition into a lively social gathering and creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere for visitors from diverse backgrounds.

The exhibition also welcomed school students, alumni, and members of the public, extending its impact well beyond the university community. Their presence transformed ReXtro 2025 into a shared celebration of learning, innovation, and achievement. For prospective students, it offered inspiration and insight into the possibilities within engineering education, while alumni had the opportunity to reconnect with their academic roots and witness the Faculty's continued growth and progress.

This broad participation reinforced the strong sense of continuity and legacy that has defined the Faculty of Engineering for 25 years, highlighting its enduring contribution to society and technological advancement. Behind the success of ReXtro 2025



stood months of meticulous planning and dedicated teamwork by academic staff, student leaders, and volunteers.

As ReXtro 2025 concluded, it reaffirmed the Faculty's enduring commitment to innovation, research, and societal contribution. Celebrating 25 years of achievement, the Faculty now stands ready to embrace the next chapter of engineering excellence and continue shaping the engineers who will build the future.

Faculty of Engineering
University of Ruhuna

International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment - 2025

The Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, successfully hosted the International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE 2025) on 2nd September 2025 at Galle Face Hotel, Colombo. Under the theme "Driving Innovations in Agricultural Technologies for Climate Action and Sustainability," the symposium reinforced the University's position as a leader in agricultural research and international academic collaboration. Since its establishment in 2011, ISAE has evolved into a globally recognized platform for scientific excellence, with sixteen symposia conducted to date. The 2025 edition attracted 270 participants,



234 in-person and 36 online, including researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers from around the world, addressing critical challenges in climate change, food security, and sustainable resource management.

The symposium was honored by the presence of Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, as Chief Guest, and Mr. Indika Gunawardhana as Guest of Honour. Prof. Buddhi Marambe, Senior Professor at the University of Peradeniya, delivered the keynote address. Eight distinguished international and national speakers, Mr. Waruna Madawana Arachchi, Dr. Sosheel Godfrey, Prof. Shinichiro Kuroki, Dr. Pankaj B. Pathare, Dr. Suresh Motwani, Dr. Camelia Adriana Bucataru, Mr. Haridas Fernando, and Dr. Muhammad Shafiq enriched discussions on agricultural sustainability and climate resilience. Senior Prof. P.A. Jayantha, Vice-Chancellor, and Senior Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe, Dean of the Faculty, attended the event, demonstrating the University's ded-



ication to global academic excellence. Dr. Awanthi Mahanama, Head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology, coordinated the symposium, with Dr. W.B.M.A.C. Bandara serving as Secretary. The program featured five thematic sessions covering climate-smart technologies, crop and soil management, food production and plant breeding, sustainable livestock production, and resilient food systems. The Three-Minute Industrial Training Presentations (3MIT) and Young Graduate Forum (YGF) provided valuable platforms for students and early-career researchers to engage with experts, bridging academic learning with industry application.

ISAE 2025 exemplified the University of Ruhuna's commitment to advancing sustainable agricultural practices and strengthening its reputation as a premier institution driving innovation for global food security and environmental sustainability.



Celebrating GIS Day 2025 at the University of Ruhuna

The University of Ruhuna celebrated GIS Day 2025 with a special programme focused on the application of Geographic Information Systems in Maritime Archaeology, jointly organised by the Institute of Archaeology and Heritage Studies (IAHS) and the Department of History and Archaeology. Eng. Anuradha Piyadasa, Director of IAHS, delivered a key presentation on the use of GIS in developing and managing Sri Lanka's National Shipwreck Database, showcasing how spatial data supports the documentation and protection of the

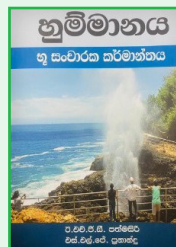


country's underwater cultural heritage. A standout feature was a virtual reality experience using a Meta Quest 3 headset, allowing participants to explore the 2,200-year-old Godawaya Shipwreck, demonstrating the powerful integration of GIS and VR in archaeological research and heritage interpretation.

The event was initiated and guided by Dr. Upeksha Gamage, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, with IAHS sponsoring certificates and refreshments. Coordination was handled by third-year Archaeology students of the 45th Batch. Regarded as one of Sri Lanka's most successful GIS Day celebrations, the programme reflected the University of Ruhuna's commitment to technology-driven archaeological education.

Book Launch and Opening of the Prof. Weerakkody Memorial Laboratory

The Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna, successfully held its Book Launch Ceremony and the inauguration of the renovated Prof. Weerakkody Memorial Laboratory on 7th November 2025. The event was graced by Senior Professor P. A. Jayantha, Vice Chan-



cellor of the University of Ruhuna, and featured Professor P. Hewage, Emeritus Professor of Geography, as the keynote speaker. The highlight of the ceremony was the official launching the book titled "Hummanyaya", authored by Professor S. L. J. Fernando and Dr. E. H. G. C. Pathmasiri. The renovated laboratory, established in honour of Professor Upali Weerakkody, now houses a significant collection of soils and rocks originally assembled by Professor Weerakkody himself, providing an enriched environment for learning and research. The Department of Geography extends its sincere gratitude to all who contributed to and participated in making this a truly memorable occasion.

G.C.E (Advanced Level) Seminar on GIS, Remote Sensing, and GPS

The G.C.E (Advanced Level) Geography Seminar – 2025 on GIS, Remote Sensing, and GPS was successfully held on 5th August 2025 at the Auditorium, of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna. The seminar was organized by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) – Ruhuna Chapter (Section D: Life and Earth Sciences) in collaboration with the Geography Teachers' Association and the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna.

The event attracted 305 A/L students and 36 school teachers representing 30 schools across the Southern Province. Dr. L.G.D.S. Yapa, Coordinator of Section D, SLAAS Ruhuna Chapter, extends her sincere appreciation to the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Heads of the Departments of Geography and Sociology, the Social Reconciliation Unit, and all academic and non-academic staff and students of the University of Ruhuna who extended their valuable support in making the seminar a success.



Launching ÑĀNAGAVESI Academic Journal – 12th Issue

The 12th issue of Ñānagavesi Academic Journal was officially launched on 26th November 2025 at the Mini Auditorium of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna. Edited and contributed by Rev. R. Dhammasiri, B. H. Himasha Erandi, and K. P. Saduni Ishara, the issue was published under the auspices of the Pali and Buddhist Studies Association, under the guidance of Rev. Dr. Koggalle Wijitha, Head of Department.



The ceremony was graced by Senior Professor P. A. Jayanta, Vice Chancellor, as Guest of Honour, alongside Mr. Renuka Priyantha, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. S. Bandara, Heads of Departments, staff, and students. A notable highlight was the book review by Dr. D. Kusalagana Thero, renowned Buddhist psychological counsellor and internationally recognized mindfulness practitioner, which added significant intellectual depth to the occasion.

The programme was successfully organised by Senior Lecturer Mr. Anuda Kanchana, Assistant Lecturer Mr. Madawa, and the office bearers and members of the Pali and Buddhist Studies Association. This launching marks another milestone in the journal's scholarly journey, reflecting the University of Ruhuna's commitment to advancing research in Pali and Buddhist Studies.

Natural Disaster Information Center (NDIC), Department of Geography, bridges Academia and Practice in Disaster Management

Natural Disaster Trends and Management Practices

The NDIC, in collaboration with the Matara District Disaster Management Centre, successfully conducted a workshop on natural disaster trends and management practices on 25th July 2025. The session empowered disaster management officers with practical knowledge and skills, enhancing local resilience and response capacity. This initiative highlighted the value of bridging academic expertise with real-world disaster preparedness, strengthening the district's ability to respond effectively to natural hazards.



Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)

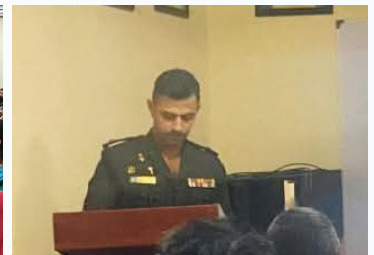
A workshop on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) was successfully conducted on 19th November 2025 emphasizing community engagement, localized risk assessment, and practical strategies to strengthen resilience, providing participants with actionable insights. Mr. Rangana Pulasthi Indrasena, Programme Operations Lead at Save the Children, served as the resource person, contributing expert knowledge and facilitating meaningful discussions. The workshop was highly productive, fostering collaboration and reinforcing the importance of community-driven disaster preparedness.



On 25th July 2025, A workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Matara District Disaster Management Centre to enhance awareness of natural disaster trends and management practices.

The session equipped disaster management officers with the knowledge and skills needed to strengthen local resilience and response capacity, marking a significant step in bridging academic insights with real-world disaster preparedness.

Standard Operating Procedures for Landslide Early Warning and Response



Ms. P.W.S. Fernando, along with two university students, participated as resource facilitators in a workshop held at the Walasmulla Divisional Secretariat Division (DSD), Hambantota District. The workshop was organized under the Sri Lanka Preparedness Partnership (SLPP), the national platform of the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), aimed at strengthening local disaster preparedness and response. Ms. Fernando and the student team contributed to the development and refinement of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for landslide early warning and response, providing technical guidance and facilitating stakeholder discussions. This initiative supports the SLPP's district-level model in Walasmulla DSD, enhancing community resilience and advancing landslide disaster risk reduction.

These initiatives well align with the SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities Target 11.5 specifically calls for reducing deaths, people affected, and economic losses caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, and the Target 11.b focuses on implementing integrated policies for disaster risk reduction aligned with the Sendai Framework.



Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Week 2025

The Department of Mathematics, University of Ruhuna successfully conducted the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Week 2025 (MSM-Week 2025) from 6th to 13th December 2025 as a virtual event via Zoom. This online event strengthened industry-academia collaboration for real-world problem solving. Over 100 participants including academic staff and students from the University of Ruhuna and other state universities formed 11 groups to address problems presented by government and private sector organizations.

All groups developed satisfactory mathematical solutions and established productive collaborations with participating organizations. Several groups were invited to present their findings on-site, with invitations extended for future research partnerships.

Dr. E.J.K.P. Nandani, MSM-Week 2025 Chairperson, commended the dedication of resource persons from academia and industry who shared their expertise. The organizing committee thanked the academic, academic supportive, and non-academic staff of the Department of Mathematics and Faculty of Science for their invaluable support throughout the event.



ADSS Initiatives 2025: Advancing Academic Excellence and Community Impact

The Actuarial and Data Science Society (ADSS) of the University of Ruhuna organized two impactful workshops in July 2025, demonstrating its commitment to holistic student development and industry readiness.

On 23rd July 2025, ADSS conducted an interactive workshop titled "Effective Communication Practices for Academic Presentations" from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Computer Science Auditorium for Level I-III FMIS and IM students. The session led by Dr. A.W.L. Pubudu Thilan, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, covered effective public speaking, structuring academic presentations, and designing professional slides. Students learned practical techniques to improve clarity, confidence, and audience engagement, developing essential communication skills for academic and professional success.

On 30th July, 2025, ADSS launched its Bootcamp Series with "PySpark & Machine Learning Hands-on Workshop" at LCTU 2.



The session featured a keynote by Thisura Senvirathne, Senior Data Scientist at MAS Holdings, who shared industry insights on distributed data processing, cloud computing, and real-world machine learning applications. Registered participants gained hands-on experience in data pipeline development using Python, PySpark-based distributed computing, and scalable machine learning workflows, while being introduced to upcoming real-world projects and a team-based mini hackathon. Both sessions promoted active engagement and practical learning, reflecting ADSS's dedication to strengthening technical expertise and professional competencies beyond traditional academic knowledge. The Society extends sincere appreciation to all resource persons and participants for making these sessions successful.



Workshop on Automated Greenhouse Management

The Department of Agriculture Engineering and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, successfully organized a Workshop on Automated Greenhouse Management on 15th September 2025 at the Department's Lecture Hall.

The workshop featured Mr. Nilantha Dissanayake, General Manager of the Greenhouse Management and Growing Department at Tomita Technologies Ltd., Yokohama, Japan, as the keynote speaker. With his extensive international experience in managing advanced greenhouse systems, Mr. Dissanayake shared valuable insights into the use of automation technologies in modern agriculture.

The session highlighted the importance of automated systems in controlling greenhouse environments to ensure optimal conditions for crop growth. Participants were introduced to cutting-edge methods of monitoring and regulating factors such as temperature, humidity, soil moisture, irrigation, and nutrient delivery through sensor-based and AI-driven systems. Practical examples from global practices were discussed, showing how automation contributes to increased productivity, resource efficiency, and sustainable farming.

Students, academics, and professionals attending the event actively engaged in discussions, raising questions on both technical aspects and practical applications in the Sri Lankan agricultural context. The speaker also emphasized the need for adopting



innovative technologies to address the challenges posed by climate change, resource limitations, and the growing demand for food security.

The workshop created a meaningful platform for knowledge exchange between academia and industry, encouraging participants to explore how technological advancements can transform agriculture in Sri Lanka. Events of this nature are essential in preparing future agricultural engineers and technologists to meet global standards while supporting the country's sustainable development goals.

The Faculty of Agriculture extends its gratitude to Mr. Nilantha Dissanayake for sharing his expertise and to all participants for making the event a success.

Video Exhibition : "A Conversation between Life and Literature"

A video exhibition titled "A Conversation between Life and Literature: A Conversation with Characters in a Novel" was presented by third-year students under the guidance of Senior Lecturer Mrs. Eradhini Hasini Lanka. The event was organized as part of the course SLS31623: Sinhala Novel and Short Story Studies, offered by the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna. The exhibition was held on 29th July 2025 from 1:30 PM onwards at the auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Special merit certificates were awarded to five outstanding groups across the following categories: Best Characterization, Best Visual Presentation, Most Creative Concept, Best Group Activity, and Best Literary Analysis of Characters.



10th Ruhuna Arts Students' Annual Sessions (RASAS)

The Department of Public Policy, University of Ruhuna, successfully hosted the 10th Ruhuna Arts Students' Annual Sessions (RASAS 2025) on 17th October 2025 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This significant academic gathering reflected the University's continued commitment to advancing undergraduate research culture and policy-focused academic engagement.



Conducted under the theme "*Let's Promote Policy-Oriented Environmental Conservation*," the conference brought together undergraduate researchers, academics, and professionals to explore sustainable solutions to contemporary environmental challenges through a public policy lens. The event served as a platform for intellectual exchange and interdisciplinary dialogue.

The ceremony was presided over by Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, as Chief Guest. The Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Indi Akurugoda, Chairperson of RASAS 2025, who emphasized the importance of nurturing environmentally conscious and policy-oriented young researchers. The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Nimalka Fernando, Attorney-at-Law and prominent women's rights activist, who offered substantive perspectives on environmental governance, civic responsibility, and gender-sensitive considerations in development policy. The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Editor-in-Chief, and the Co-Secretaries of RASAS 2025 also addressed the gathering, after which the Abstract Proceedings were formally launched.

A distinctive feature of RASAS 2025 was its institutional commitment to sustainability. In keeping with the conference theme, the event was organized as an eco-friendly academic gathering strictly avoiding the use of polythene, plastic, and other non-biodegradable materials. This initiative demonstrated how environmental policy principles can be meaningfully translated into responsible institutional practice. Following the inauguration, 17 technical sessions were conducted, during which students presented their research with enthusiasm, creativity, and academic rigour. RASAS 2025 affirmed the University of Ruhuna's dedication to sustainability, academic excellence, and socially responsible higher education.

Special Lecture on Academic Research Methods

A special lecture on Academic Research Methods was organized for the fourth-year students of the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna, and it was held on 3rd July 2025 from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM at Lecture Hall 05 (LT 05). The session was conducted by Dr. Darshana Liyanage, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Sinhala, who provided guidance on academic research methodologies and their practical applications. This special lecture served as a significant academic enrichment activity, equipping students with essential research skills in preparation for their final-year scholarly pursuits.



Ruhuna International Undergraduate Science Symposium 2025

On 12th November 2025, the University of Ruhuna hosted the Ruhuna International Undergraduate Science Symposium (RIUSS 2025) under the theme “Undergraduate Research and Innovations – Foundation for Next-Generation Science.” Vice-Chancellor Senior Professor P. A. Jayantha presided over the event, which showcased innovative research by ambitious young undergraduates.

Three keynote speakers provided valuable insights: Dr. Ruchira N. Wijesena discussed emerging technologies and navigating the global market; Professor R.M.K.T. Rathnayaka explored data science and computational decision-making; and Professor Ricca Slone addressed sustainability and green technology adoption. An interactive panel discussion followed, facilitating active discussion between speakers and attendees.



The symposium's core featured technical sessions where undergraduates presented original research, alongside a poster competition displaying impressive visual data. Outstanding presenters received certificates recognizing their excellence and dedication. Various stalls organized by Faculty of Science societies and the American Corner enriched networking opportunities. The event's success reflected the hard work of the organizing committee comprising academics and students, and all contributors behind the scenes. RIUSS 2025 was a true celebration of scientific excellence that will inspire continued research and innovation.

First Intake: Diploma in Geographical Information Science

The Diploma in Geographical Information Science at the University of Ruhuna was officially inaugurated on 06th September 2025 at the Department of Geography, with the participation of academic staff, invited guests, and the first batch of students. This is a one year program that is delivered through a combination of online and physical classes.



Promoting Eco-Friendly Practices and Disaster Awareness

On 27th November 2025, Ms. P.W.S. Fernando had the honour of participating in the “Certificate for Promoting Eco-Friendly Thoughts & Practices” ceremony, hosted by the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna. During the event, she spoke on the ongoing situation related to Cyclone Ditwah, shedding light on how advanced technologies can be harnessed to minimize the adverse impacts of disasters and enhance forecasting capabilities. Her insights underscored the vital role of sustainable practices and technological innovation in fostering resilient communities.



Elective Program in Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

The Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, successfully conducted its elective programme in Community Medicine for the year 2025, strengthening global public health training with extensive participation from international medical students. The programme, conducted monthly, is offered in one-week and two-week formats and provides international students with a structured introduction to Sri Lanka's public health system. Academic sessions include lectures on the organization of public health services, with a particular focus on maternal and child health care, preventive services, and primary health care delivery.

A highly valued component of the programme is its extensive field-based exposure. Students participated in visits to field maternal and child health clinics, the university family medicine clinic, lactation management centre, and wastewater treatment plant at a tertiary care hospital, as well as community home visits with public health midwives. They were also exposed to broader health and social care services through visits to a rehabilitation centre for differently-abled children, an elders' home, and the district Ayurveda hospital to observe traditional treatment methods unique to Sri Lanka. In addition to the elective programme, an annual summer school titled "Public Health in Global Context" has been conducted in collaboration with the Univer-



sity of Amsterdam since 2018. Held annually in June, this one-month programme provides students with in-depth exposure to Sri Lankan public health practices. Beyond the standard field visits, the summer school includes observation of disease surveillance activities, school health programmes, occupational health activities, interactive lectures and discussions on comparative health systems, and cross-cultural learning. The 2025 summer school was successfully conducted with the participation of 15 students, further strengthening international academic collaboration between the two institutions.

In 2025, approximately 650 international students from countries including Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States participated in the programme. The elective programme in community medicine continues to promote international collaboration, cross-cultural learning, and community-oriented medical education, reflecting the Faculty of Medicine's commitment to excellence in global health training and positioning the University of Ruhuna as a leading destination for international public health education.



Capacity Building Workshop on Digital Technologies in Agriculture

The Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, successfully conducted a Capacity Building Workshop on Digital Technologies on the 18th December 2025 in the Department's Lecture Hall.

The workshop was designed to enhance awareness and understanding of emerging digital tools and innovations transforming the agricultural sector. With the growing challenges of global food security, climate change, and sustainability, the program emphasized the urgent necessity of digitalization to ensure resilient and efficient farming systems.

The sessions highlighted how digital ecosystems can strengthen agricultural value chains by improving data and knowledge flows, and by connecting farmers with suppliers, markets, and financial services. Participants were introduced to key digital technologies currently shaping modern agriculture, including smart farming applications powered by the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Practical examples such as soil sensors, drones, and real-time monitoring systems were discussed, demonstrating how technology supports timely decision-making, resource optimization, and productivity enhancement.



An interactive discussion session provided an engaging platform for staff and students to share perspectives on the opportunities and challenges of adopting digital agriculture in Sri Lanka. Issues such as digital literacy, accessibility, and barriers to technology adoption were actively addressed, encouraging meaningful dialogue on future directions.

The workshop concluded with key takeaways and a forward-looking vision for integrating digital innovations into Sri Lanka's agricultural development. This initiative served as an important step toward building capacity among future agricultural professionals and promoting technology-driven sustainable farming.



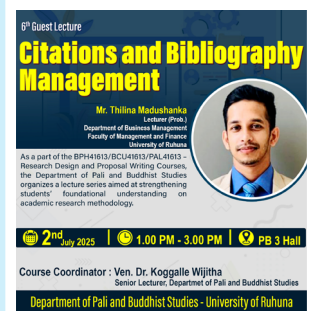
Strengthening Research Competence: A Series of Academic Initiatives by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna, has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to nurturing research excellence through a series of purposeful academic programmes designed to equip students with essential research competencies. These initiatives, conducted under the course modules in Research Methodology and Research Design, reflect the Department's proactive approach to building a strong research culture among its students.

The series commenced with a guest lecture on "The Nature and Scope of Social Research," delivered by Mr. N. G. Upul Sanjeewa Wijepala, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology. This was followed by a second guest

lecture on Data Analysis, conducted by Mrs. Anuradha Gamage, Lecturer in the Department of Economics, on 18th December 2025, providing students with practical guidance on data collection, interpretation, and analysis. Complementing these sessions, a workshop on "Abstract Writing" was conducted on 31st July 2025 via Zoom. This session was, led by Ven. Welampele Rathanasara Thero of the University of Kelaniya together with Dr. Dilshan Manoj Rajapaksha and Ven. Rotumba Dhammasiri Thero attracting over fifty participants. Further strengthening academic writing skills, a workshop on "Citation and Bibliography Management" was held on 2nd July 2025, facilitated by Mr. Thilina Madushanka, Lecturer, Department of Business Management, covering referencing tools, citation methods, and academic integrity.

All sessions were coordinated under the guidance of Ven. Dr. Koggalle Wijitha Thero, Head of the Department, and Senior Lecturer Mr. Anuda Kanchana, and were marked by active student participation and interdisciplinary collaboration. The Department extends its sincere appreciation to all resource persons, academic staff, and participants whose contributions made these programmes a meaningful success. These initiatives collectively reflect the University of Ruhuna's dedication to fostering academically competent, critically informed, and ethically responsible graduates in Pali and Buddhist Studies.



Workshop on Integrating AI and Technology into English Language Education

The Department of English Language Teaching (DELT), in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy Colombo, successfully organized a workshop titled "Integrating AI and Technology into English Language Education" on 21st October 2025 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at IT Lab-3. The workshop was organized as part of the broader English Language Specialist Program, funded by the U.S. Embassy Colombo. The session was conducted by Prof. Usree Bhattacharya, Associate Professor in TESOL and World Languages at the University of Georgia (UGA), USA. Prof. Bhattacharya holds a PhD in Education from the University of California, Berkeley, and is widely recognized for her interdisciplinary research at the intersection of language education, artificial intelligence, and disability studies.

The workshop was conducted for the English language teaching staff of the University of Ruhuna across all faculties, including the staff of the Department of English Language Teaching. During the session, Prof. Bhattacharya explored the implications of AI-driven technologies for English language teaching and learning in diverse educational contexts. In addition, the workshop addressed the ethical and responsible use of AI in education, drawing on Prof. Bhattacharya's involvement in institutional initiatives related to AI policy and curriculum development.



The workshop was well received by participants and contributed meaningfully to ongoing professional development initiatives aimed at enhancing English language education at the University of Ruhuna.



Stakeholders Meeting on Curriculum Revision: Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

The stakeholder consultation meeting was successfully conducted on 03rd October 2025 to solicit comments and recommendations pertaining to the existing curriculum and proposed revisions of the Bachelor of Science Honours degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology. The Dean of the Faculty, Prof. K.H.M.A. Deepananda, delivered the welcome address, and the Chairperson of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the Faculty, Prof. H.B. Asanthi outlined the objectives of the meeting. The Director of the Centre for Quality Assurance, University of Ruhuna, Prof. Nandasiri Kihibiyahetti, also addressed the gathering.

Heads of Departments subsequently presented their respective contributions to the existing degree programmes.



The event was conducted with the participation of twenty-two representatives from various government and private sector organisations, with group discussions held separately for each of the three departments in the presence of assigned subject experts. A nominated rapporteur for each group recorded the comments and observations raised during the discussions and presented a summary at the conclusion of the respective sessions.

Awareness Program on Sinhala Language and Literature

An awareness program highlighting the importance of studying Sinhala language and literature was held at the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna, on 14th August 2025. This special event was organized upon the request of Carey College, Colombo 08, during their visit to the University of Ruhuna. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Prof. Sandhya Kahandagama, Head of the Department, while the additional sessions were conducted by Assistant Lecturers of Mr. Y. D. Priyankara, Mr. Mahesh Rohan, and Mr. Kasun Sudarshana.



This program is part of a broader initiative of the Department of Sinhala aimed at encouraging school students to develop a deeper interest in Sinhala studies. During the visit, students from Carey College also had the opportunity to showcase their talents at the university.

A Decade of Excellence: CSL CER at 10 Years

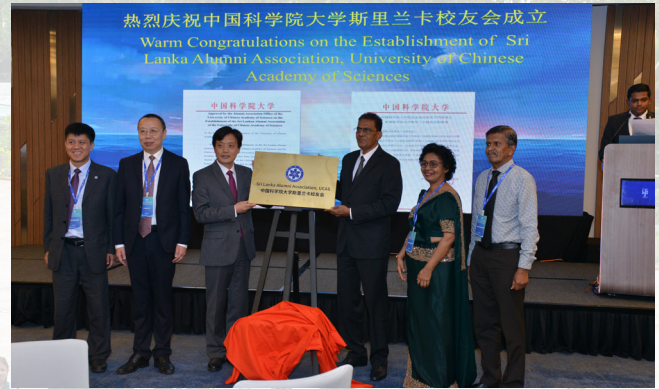
The Ceremony celebrating the 10th Anniversary of China-Sri Lanka Joint Centre for Education and Research (CSL CER) and the 10th China-Sri Lanka Joint Workshop on “Climate Change and Sustainable Marine Development” were held on 23rd and 24th October 2025 at Cinnamon Life, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

This flagship event brought together leading national and international scientists, academics, and policymakers specializing in climate science, marine studies, and environmental sustainability to reflect on a decade of collaboration between Sri Lanka and China and to chart future research directions. Key sessions addressed Indo-Pacific ocean variability, climate adaptation strategies, and sustainable marine resource management, highlighting the growing importance of regional scientific cooperation in addressing climate-related challenges.



A major milestone of the event was the launch of the Initiative on Indian Ocean Climate Change and Eco-Environment Response (IOCC-EER), which aims to strengthen coordinated research on climate and ecosystem responses in the Indian Ocean region. Additionally, the Sri Lanka Alumni Association of the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) was formally inaugurated, creating a structured platform for continued academic networking and institutional collaboration.

The event strengthened scientific networks across Asia and beyond, formalized alumni engagement mechanisms, and further reinforced



CSL CER's leadership role in promoting climate and marine research, capacity building, and long-term international academic partnerships. This milestone underscores the University of Ruhuna's commitment to addressing global environmental challenges through strategic international collaboration.



Ms. C. Senevirathna: Acting Registrar of the University

In line with the retirement of Registrar Ms. P.S. Kalugama on 18th June 2025, following years of dedicated and distinguished service to the University of Ruhuna, Ms. C. Senevirathne, Deputy Registrar of the Corporate Management Division, has been appointed as Acting Registrar with effect from 19th June 2025.

Since assuming office, Ms. Senevirathne has continued to discharge the responsibilities of the position, providing steady guidance and support to the University's governance and administrative functions. The University extends its sincere appreciation to Ms. Kalugama for her valuable service and expresses full confidence in Ms. Senevirathne's ability to uphold the standards and responsibilities of the office.



World Egg Day Celebration, 2025

The Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation, celebrated World Egg Day 2025 under the theme "Eggs for Health and Sustainability." The event highlighted the nutritional, economic, and environmental value of eggs as an affordable source of high-quality protein while addressing common myths surrounding egg consumption.

Student creativity took center stage through a Digital Poster Competition and an Egg Innovation Video Contest, receiving over 160 submissions from school and university students. The programme also featured a live egg-based cooking demonstration led by Mrs. Anoma Wijetunga of the "Anoma's Kitchen" YouTube channel, which attracted enthusiastic participation and showcased the versatility of eggs in everyday cooking.



Following evaluation by expert panels, outstanding entries were recognized with certificates and cash prizes at the celebrations held on Friday, 10th October 2025, at the Faculty of Agriculture. Senior Professor Guttila Jayasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Indunil Pathirana, Head, Department of Animal Science, and event coordinators Dr. Hasitha Priyashantha and Dr. Lakshitha Fonseka highlighted the importance of combining science, creativity, and community engagement to promote informed food choices.



The organizers extend their congratulations to all participants and sincere appreciation to collaborators and supporters for making World Egg Day 2025 a meaningful success.

Monthly Lecture Series: "Exam Stress: Identification and Management"

The first lecture in the monthly series organized by the Department of Sinhala was successfully held on Wednesday, 23rd July 2025, at 2:00 p.m. The session, titled "Exam Stress: Identification and Management," was conducted by Professor Harshani Rajapaksa from the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. This insightful program aims to support student well-being and academic success through expert-led discussions.

The lecture series was organized under the guidance of Dr. Lokeshwari Karunaratne, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sinhala, with the support of Assistant Lecturer Mr. Kasun Sudarshana.



Beyond the Shell: Nutrition Awareness Programme

Beyond the Shell was a two-day nutrition awareness outreach programme successfully conducted in the Nuwara Eliya District to address protein malnutrition through science-based education and strengthen inter-university collaboration. The programme was jointly organized by the Departments of Animal Science at the University of Ruhuna and the University of Peradeniya, with funding support from the Poultry Science Association (USA). Additional sponsorship was provided by the World Poultry Science Association – Sri Lanka Branch, Big Dutchman Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Association of Animal Production, Mandarin Farm, and MILCO. The initiative was conducted in collaboration with IAAS Sri Lanka (Peradeniya) and the All-Island Poultry Association.

The programme focused on improving awareness of eggs' nutritional value among school-children and pregnant mothers while dispelling common myths and misconceptions. Eggs were presented as an affordable, nutrient-dense source of high-quality protein, vitamins, and minerals, with practical guidance on incorporating them into daily diets.

Beyond nutrition education, the programme facilitated meaningful cultural and academic exchange between the two universities. Academic staff and students collaborated closely,



sharing expertise, perspectives, and experiences demonstrating how inter-university partnerships can extend knowledge beyond classrooms to create tangible social impact.

With over 300 community members participating, the programme reflected strong local engagement and the power of collaborative outreach.

Award of Appreciation to Dr. Ven. Dangala Kusalagnana Thero

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna, presented an Award of Appreciation to Dr. Ven. Dangala Kusalagana Thero on 26th November 2025, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the physical development and overall advancement of the Department. A distinguished former scholar of the Department, Dr. Ven. Kusalagana Thero has been widely admired for his dedication, generosity, and unwavering commitment, which have greatly strengthened both the academic and physical infrastructure of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna.

His contributions continue to inspire faculty, staff, and students alike. The ceremony was organized under the leadership of Dr. Ven. Koggalle Wijitha, Head of the Department, and was graced by Senior Professor



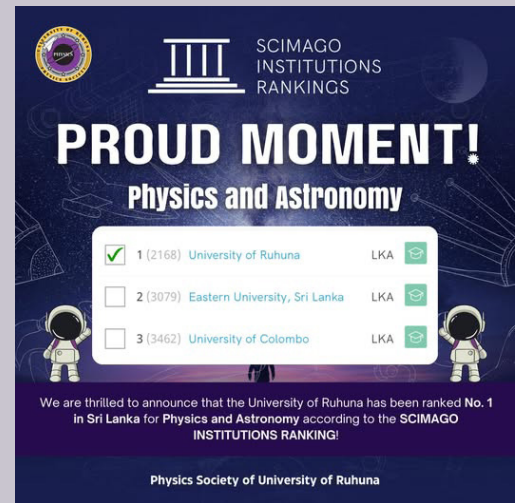
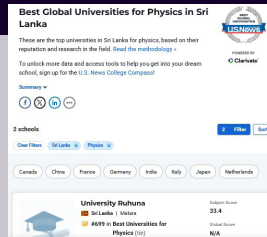
P. A. Jayantha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Mr. Renuka Priyantha, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor A. S. Bandara, Heads of Departments, and academic, non-academic staff and students. Their presence reflected the Department's collective appreciation for Dr. Ven. Kusalagana Thero's invaluable service and enduring legacy.

Department of Physics Ranked No. 1 in Sri Lanka for Research Excellence

The Department of Physics at the University of Ruhuna has achieved distinction by being ranked No. 1 in Physics and Astronomy research in Sri Lanka according to the SCImago Institutions Rankings 2025 and the Best Global Universities Rankings 2025 and the Best Global Universities for Physics in Sri Lanka according to U.S. News & World Report.

These recognitions reflect the department's consistent academic excellence, high-quality research output, rigorous curriculum, and meaningful contributions to the scientific community.

The SCImago Institutions Rankings classify academic and research institutions worldwide using a composite indicator that integrates three main dimensions: research performance, innovation outputs, and societal impact measured through web visibility. Similarly, the U.S. News Best Global Universities rankings evaluate institutions based on multiple research and academic performance indicators, including global and regional research reputation, publica-



tions, citations, and international collaborations. Securing the top position in these independent and reputable ranking systems demonstrates the strong research culture cultivated within the Department of Physics at the University of Ruhuna, as well as the dedication and professionalism of its academic staff, researchers, and students. The Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna recognizes this accomplishment as an important milestone that further strengthens its reputation as a leading institution for scientific education and research in Sri Lanka. The department looks forward to building upon this success by expanding its research impact, fostering innovation, and maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence.



Department of Physics

University of Ruhuna - Sri Lanka

Launching the People's Journal: Department of History and Archaeology

The launch of People's Journal was held on 16th December 2025 at the Geography Department Auditorium, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.

The ceremony was presided over by Mr. Renuka Priyantha, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, as Chief Guest. Dr. Indi Akurugoda, Head of the Department of Public Policy, Dr. Darshana Bandara, Head of the Department of History and Archaeology, and Dr. Suranjith Gunasekara, Director of the Cultural Centre, University of Ruhuna, attended as Special Guests.



The proceedings commenced with a welcome address delivered by Ms. Dilhani Kumarasinghe, a member of People's.lk. Dr. Darshana Bandara subsequently outlined the academic rationale behind the publication, affirming that the journal bears a responsibility to bring the concerns of marginalized communities to wider public attention. He further emphasized that this constitutes a fundamental obligation incumbent upon researchers today.

Strengthening National Research Collaboration: MoU Between University of Ruhuna and CDRD Center for Defence Research and Development

In 2025, the University of Ruhuna formalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Centre for Defence Research and Development (CDRD) of the Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka, establishing an institutional framework for long-term collaboration in joint research, technical consultancy, and specialized training in areas of mutual interest.

The agreement enhances structured cooperation between academia and the national defence research sector, promoting knowledge exchange and applied research to address national priorities. For the China-Sri Lanka Joint Centre for Education and Research (CSL CER), the MoU holds particular strategic importance as it streamlines administrative and regulatory approval processes for coastal and marine research activities that require coordination with the Ministry of Defence, thereby reducing operational delays and enabling more efficient implementation of scientific projects.

This initiative is expected to strengthen national research capacity, improve inter-institutional coordination, and support the development of high-impact research programmes in marine science, technology, and related fields, further positioning the University of Ruhuna as a key contributor to Sri Lanka's research and development landscape.



Workshop on Firefighting: Faculty of Engineering



A Fire Safety and Firefighting Training Workshop organized by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, was held on 6th August 2025 at the Department premises. The workshop included a fire safety discussion, a lecture, an interactive Q&A session, and a practical demonstration with the participation of academic staff, technical officers, laboratory attendants, faculty security officers, work aids, and civil engineering undergraduate students. The workshop aimed at enhancing the theoretical knowledge and practical proficiency in firefighting techniques and safety protocols among academic staff, non-academic staff, and students, which are crucial in maintaining a safety-conscious environment within the Department.

Mr. G.S.K. Samaraweera and Mr. G.D. Karunathilaka, fire training officers with more than twenty-five years of experience at the Fire Unit of Galle Municipal Council, served as resource persons for the workshop. All participants actively engaged with the resource persons to gain insights from their exceptional expertise in fire safety and firefighting, resulting in a highly successful event with positive feedback.

Discovery of a New Sri Lankan Firefly Species: *Medeopteryx taprobana*

A new endemic firefly species of genus *Medeopteryx* was discovered from Sri Lanka by the research team, comprising Dr. W. M. C. D. Wijekoon (Senior Lecturer) and Prof. H. C. E. Wegirya, Mr. Dilshan R. De Silva and Lahiru M.P. Gamage of the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna.

This new firefly species was named "*Medeopteryx taprobana*" by the research team using the name "taprobana", which was a Latin name that was used by the ancient Greeks for Sri Lanka.

The scientific publication in connection with this discovery was made, and it was published in 2025 in the "Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity".

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japb.2025.04.010>



Vox Maxima 2025 – Inter Faculty Speech Competition

The University of Ruhuna Gavel Club successfully concluded Vox Maxima 2025, the Inter Faculty Speech Competition of the University of Ruhuna, bringing together more than 100 students representing all nine faculties. The competition began with an online Preliminary Round, enabling broad participation across the University. Moving beyond a conventional contest, Vox Maxima was structured as a journey of development, supported by a comprehensive workshop series conducted by experienced Toastmasters and complemented by a video series that guided participants in refining content, delivery and stage confidence.



The Semi-Final Round was held on 04th of October 2025 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Engineering, where selected contestants demonstrated remarkable growth and composure. The Grand Finale followed on 02nd November 2025 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, attracting a distinguished gathering of academics, toastmasters, students and invited guests. The occasion was graced by Prof. K. H. M. Ashoka Deepananda, Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, as Chief Guest, D.T.M Jeewana Pradeep as Guest of Honour and Prof. Sunanda Kodikara Arachchi, whose presence reflected the University's commitment to fostering confident and competent communicators.

At the conclusion of a compelling final round, Ms.Danuki Perera from the Faculty of Medicine secured First Place, Ms.Senaya Dharmadasa from the Faculty of Management and Finance was awarded Second Place and Ms.Nevanjee Hewawasam from the Faculty of Medicine achieved Third Place. Vox Maxima 2025 stands as a testament to the vibrant student leadership within the University of Ruhuna, reinforcing its dedication to holistic education that values confident communication and interfaculty collaboration.



Chinese Ambassador's Scholarship Awarding Ceremony 2025

The Chinese Ambassador's Scholarship Awarding Ceremony 2025 was held on 7th November 2025 at the New Senate Room of the University of Ruhuna, jointly organized by the University of Ruhuna and the China-Sri Lanka Joint Centre for Education and Research (CSL CER).

The event recognized two outstanding students selected to receive prestigious, fully funded Master's or PhD scholarships offered by His Excellency Qi Zhenhong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Sri Lanka. The ceremony was attended by the Ambassador, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, senior academics, CSL CER leadership, university staff, and students, reflecting the high-level institutional support for academic cooperation between the two countries.

This occasion reaffirmed the strong educational and diplomatic partnership between Sri Lanka and China, highlighting China's continued commitment to supporting human capital development in Sri Lanka. The scholarships create enhanced opportunities for advanced research training and international academic exposure for Sri Lankan postgraduate students, further strengthening the University of Ruhuna's position as a leading institution in fostering international collaboration.



University of Ruhuna and RMIT Australia Strengthen Strategic Research Partnership



A high-level delegation from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia, visited the University of Ruhuna on 29th September 2025 to strengthen academic and research collaboration between the two institutions.

The delegation, led by Prof. Calum Drummond, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation) of RMIT, and Prof. Sujeeva Setunge, Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, was warmly welcomed by Senior Professor Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya, Director of the Centre for International Affairs (CINTA). The visiting team met with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, along with Deans, Directors, and academic coordinators to explore new opportunities for joint research and academic cooperation.

Prof. Sudhira De Silva, UoR Coordinator for the RMIT-UoR Cotutelle PhD Program, presented an overview of the ongoing PhD programmes, highlighting the successful partnerships already in place. Prof. Setunge elaborated on existing collaborations and outlined future directions for enhanced cooperation. Both the Vice Chancellor of UoR and Prof. Drummond emphasized the strategic importance of continuing and expanding this partnership.

Potential collaborations in food technology, agriculture, and marine sciences were explored through presentations by Prof. Jayani Chandrapala (RMIT), Prof. Guttilla

Jayasinghe (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, UoR), and Prof. K.H.M.A. Deepananda (Dean, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, UoR). An engaging open discussion followed, moderated by Prof. Chaminda Karunasena, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

The delegation toured state-of-the-art laboratories at the Faculty of Science, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, and the China-Sri Lanka Joint Centre for Education and Research. The visit concluded with a vibrant cultural performance organized by the Cultural Centre of the University of Ruhuna, showcasing Sri Lankan heritage.

This visit marks another milestone in strengthening the long-standing partnership between RMIT and the University of Ruhuna, paving the way for impactful research collaborations and academic excellence.



Visit of the Deputy High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Dr. Satyanjal Pandey

The Deputy High Commissioner of India, Dr. Satyanjal Pandey, visited the University of Ruhuna on 16th September 2025. During his visit, the Deputy High Commissioner engaged in discussions with the Vice Chancellor, Snr. Prof. P.A. Jayantha, and the Deans and Heads of Departments representing all faculties on fostering academic partnerships and exploring avenues for collaborative research between the University of Ruhuna and Indian universities.

Dr. Pandey was accompanied by Mr. Harvinder Singh, Consul General of the Consulate of India in Hambantota. The delegation visited the Department of Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture of the Faculty of Engineering, and the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, where they observed the facilities and ongoing academic activities.



Visit of the Ambassador of Republic of Indonesia HE Dewi Gustina Tobing

The University of Ruhuna was honored to host Her Excellency Dewi Gustina Tobing, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Sri Lanka, on 7th October 2025.

During her visit, H.E. Ambassador Tobing met with Senior Professor P.A. Jayantha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, along with the Deans of Faculties and Senior Professor Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya, Director of the Centre for International Affairs. The meeting focused on enhancing academic collaboration, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding between Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Following the official meeting, H.E. the Ambassador delivered an insightful presentation to university students, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Indonesia and the evolving bilateral relations between Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The session was well attended by students and faculty members, sparking enthusiastic dialogue on regional cooperation and educational partnerships.



South East, South Asia and Taiwanese University (SATU) Presidents' Forum, IIT Bombay

Senior Professor Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya, Director CINTA, and Dr. Maduka Subodinee (Faculty of Agriculture) represented the University of Ruhuna at the South and Southeast Asia and Taiwanese University (SATU) Presidents' Forum Networking Meeting, held from 11th to 13th November at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, India.

The forum brought together senior university leaders and representatives from the South and Southeast Asian and Taiwanese regions to foster dialogue on higher education cooperation, research partnerships, and academic mobility. Participation in this prestigious event provided an important platform for strengthening regional and international academic linkages.



Senior Professor Vajira Bulugahapitiya was invited to serve as a panelist at a high-level panel discussion titled "Strengthening Academic and Research Collaboration: Opportunities and Challenges." Notably, panelists were selected from only six countries, highlighting the recognition standing of the University of Ruhuna within the region. The discussion focused on emerging opportunities for collaboration and strategies to address challenges in international academic and research engagement.

The participation of the University of Ruhuna at the SATU Presidents' Forum highlights the University's continued commitment to expanding its global presence, fostering meaningful international collaborations, and contributing actively to regional and global higher education networks.

Exploring Academic Partnerships: Faculty of Technology Visit to University Teknologi Malaysia

A team comprising academic staff and undergraduate students from the University of Ruhuna visited Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) International, Kuala Lumpur, on 15th and 16th July 2025. The objective of the visit was to initiate collaborative relationships between the two universities.

This two-day programme was organized to familiarize the team with UTM's academic programmes, provide laboratory visits, and highlight opportunities available for undergraduate and postgraduate studies, as well as cultural exchange. The students gained valuable international exposure and experienced the academic environment and culture of UTM and Malaysia.



University of Ruhuna and Western Norway University Forge Partnership in Nursing Education

A five-member delegation from the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences visited the University of Ruhuna on 4th November 2025 to explore collaborative opportunities in the field of nursing education. The discussions centered on establishing student and academic exchange programmes, aiming to foster global partnerships and enrich professional development.

The delegates met with the Vice Chancellor, along with the Director of the Centre for International Affairs (CINTA), the Dean, and academic staff of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences. This visit marks a significant step toward strengthening international academic ties between the University of Ruhuna and the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences.



Strengthening Academic and Cultural Ties: Faculty of Technology Visit to Vellore Institute of Technology

A delegation from the Faculty of Technology (FoT), University of Ruhuna, comprising three academic staff members and fifteen second-year students, visited Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), India, from 4th to 12th September 2025. The visit was a part of VIT's International Summer School Program and aimed to promote academic exchange, cross-cultural learning, and professional development.



The initiative followed discussions led by Prof. Subash Jayasinghe, Dean of the FoT, and was coordinated by Dr. Kaushalya Wijayasekara, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Biosystems Technology. The academic delegation included Dr. Wijayasekara, Dr. Chandana Pushpakumara, and Mr. Chathuranga Adhikari. The program focused on enhancing collaboration through scientific discussions, academic observations, and exploration of research partnerships, internship programs, student and staff exchange initiatives, and postgraduate study pathways. Participants engaged in scholarly sessions, institutional discussions, and campus tours, gaining valuable insights into India's academic and research landscape. The relationships established are expected to foster sustainable collaborations, joint research initiatives, and expanded global learning opportunities.

Online Learning Platform Working Group Meeting: NSIS Project

The University of Ruhuna successfully hosted the Online Learning Platform Working Group (OLPWG) Meeting under the Developing Information, Research, and Digital Skills for Business, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal (NSIS) Erasmus+ Capacity Building Project from 2nd to 5th December 2025.

The meeting brought together academic and institutional partners from Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Ireland, Germany, Greece and Romania, marking a significant milestone in strengthening international collaboration in digital education and capacity building. The participants from Sri Lanka included Dr. Kokila Ramanayake (The University of Ruhuna Coordinator), Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi, Ms. Inosha Amarasekara, and Mr. J. A. Ajih.



The opening ceremony was graced by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, along with the NSIS Project Coordinator, representatives from partner universities, and the project's External Evaluators. The sessions focused on reviewing project progress, discussing the development of the Online Learning Platform, planning National Awareness Days, and advancing curriculum design and training strategies aligned with NSIS objectives.

Over the four-day program, participants engaged in presentations, roundtable discussions, workshops, and collaborative group activities covering areas such as online module development, monitoring and evaluation, dissemination strategies, project finance management, and sustainability planning. Special emphasis was placed on the development and piloting of NSIS curriculum modules and the long-term sustainability of the Online Learning Platform across partner countries.

Hosting this international working group meeting highlighted the University of Ruhuna's active role in global academic collaboration and its commitment to supporting innovation, digital transformation, and research capacity development in higher education. The event concluded successfully with clear action plans and strengthened partnerships to guide the next phases of the NSIS project.

Invited lecture on “Firefly Taxonomy: Challenges and opportunities in South Asia”

Dr. W. M. C. Dammika Wijekoon, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, was invited as a guest lecturer for the “International Forum on Global-to-Local Approach on Firefly Taxonomy,” jointly organized by the Department of Zoology, Christ College, and the Department of Zoology, Kannur University, Kerala, India. Dr. Wijekoon, recognized as an expert on firefly beetles in Sri Lanka, delivered a lecture titled “Firefly Taxonomy: Challenges and Opportunities in South Asia.” The virtual event attracted more than 100 local and international participants. In his presentation, Dr. Wijekoon highlighted the key challenges and opportunities facing firefly studies in South Asia.



Ruhuna-Ryukyus Global Citizen Program 2025

The Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, successfully hosted the Sri Lanka Ruhuna–Ryukyus Global Citizen Program 2025 from 15th to 20th September 2025, in collaboration with the University of the Ryukyus, Japan. This prestigious international initiative promoted cross-cultural understanding, academic exchange, and global citizenship between both institutions.



The program began on 15th September with an opening ceremony featuring addresses by Senior Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe, Dean of the Faculty, and Prof. Sakai Kazuhito from the University of the Ryukyus. Participants engaged in introductions, presented program objectives, and exchanged tokens of appreciation, establishing a foundation for meaningful collaboration.

The program offered a comprehensive blend of academic, environmental, and cultural experiences. On 16th September, participants visited the Cinnamon Research Institute and explored the Madu River mangrove ecosystem, a vital coastal habitat. The following day featured an excursion to Yala National Park, showcasing Sri Lanka's exceptional biodiversity.

A two-day visit to the Tea Research Institute in Talawakelle provided valuable insights into Sri Lanka's world-renowned tea industry, covering research innovations, cultivation practices, and sustainable management strategies. On 19th September, the delegation experienced Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage through visits to the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy and key sites in Colombo.

Faculty members Dr. Anushka Bandara, Dr. Pranith Piyumal, Dr. Thusitha Bandara, Dr. Anupa Koswatta, and Dr. Awanthi Mahanama provided expert guidance throughout the program, ensuring meaningful academic and cultural exchanges.

The Ruhuna–Ryukyus Global Citizen Program 2025 significantly strengthened bilateral ties between Sri Lanka and Japan while equipping students with enhanced global perspectives, intercultural competence, and lasting international connections. This successful collaboration underscores the University of Ruhuna's commitment to producing globally engaged graduates and reinforces its reputation as a leader in international academic partnerships. The Faculty looks forward to expanding this partnership in future programs.



Training programme on “Prehistory” and “Numismatics”

A group of students from the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, accompanied by Dr. Upeksha Gamage, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, successfully participated in the “Indian Prehistory” and “Ancient Indian Numismatics” workshops organized by the Indian Numismatic, Historical and Cultural Research Foundation (INHCRF), Nashik, India.



The Indian Prehistory workshop provided an enriching academic experience, combining theoretical instruction with practical training. Participants gained in-depth exposure to key aspects of Indian prehistory, including the identification of archaeological artefacts, excavation techniques, field survey methods, recording procedures, and systematic data collection practices. These hands-on sessions significantly enhanced the students' understanding of archaeological methodologies and field-based research.

A highlight of the program was the numismatics component, which directly complemented the students' ongoing course module on Numismatics of India and Sri Lanka. During these sessions, students had the rare opportunity to study Indian coins through direct handling and close observation, gaining valuable practical knowledge in coin identification, cataloguing, and classification. This academic engagement not only strengthened the students' practical skills and subject knowledge but also laid the groundwork for future academic collaboration between the University of Ruhuna and the host institution in India.

SDG Partnership for an Equitable Future

The SDG Partnership Programme (Project No. GAE-2624-WRC/25-26), sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), facilitated a one-month research visit by Prof. H. B. Asanthi and Dr. W. S. Weerakody of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology to the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee), Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India. The visit was directly linked to the research project entitled “Resilient Food and Water Systems under Global Change: An SDG-Driven Approach for Traditional Small Rural Communities under SDG Partnership Funding.”

Prof. Ashish Pandey of the Department of Water Resources Development and Management, IIT Roorkee, served as the host for the visit and associated activities. During the stay, collaborative engagements were undertaken with academic staff and students of the Department, encompassing the sharing of research experiences and joint academic activities. Laboratory facili-



ties equipped for water and soil analysis were utilised, with a primary focus on strengthening the foundation for future research collaboration with Indian scientists. In addition, the delegates participated in a workshop on the “Advancement of Standards,” conducted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The workshop addressed the significance of awareness regarding water quality, irrigation, and water utility standards.

HackTrail 2.0: Fostering Innovation and Technical Excellence Through Overnight Hackathon

The ICT Students' Circle of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, successfully organized HackTrail 2.0, an overnight hackathon, on 21st and 22nd August 2024. The event brought together 75 enthusiastic undergraduates in 15 teams, who competed to develop innovative solutions for a given problem statement.

The hackathon provided students with hands-on experience in system development, teamwork, and problem-solving under time constraints. The judging panel comprised lecturers from the Department of ICT and industry experts who are alumni of the Faculty of Technology, adding both academic and professional perspectives to the evaluation process.

HackTrail 2.0 challenged participants' creativity and technical skills while serving as a platform for knowledge exchange and industry engagement, further strengthening the culture of innovation at the Faculty of Technology.



Sanroopana 2025 – Strengthening Creative Excellence

The Infocur Photography Society of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, successfully organized Sanroopana 2025, a large-scale creative initiative celebrating the society's decade-long contribution to visual arts. This event demonstrated how student-led organizations at the University of Ruhuna actively contribute to academic excellence, creative development, and national-level engagement.

Designed as a multi-phase event, Sanroopana 2025 brought together photography and short film enthusiasts from across Sri Lanka while marking the society's 10th anniversary. The first phase featured island-wide photography and short film competitions for school students, university students, and independent photographers. The second phase was held on 18th and 19th July 2025 at the University of Ruhuna. Day one featured an exhibition of selected competition entries, a panel discussion on photography and videogra-



phy with experienced practitioners, and an online session titled "Editing with AI" conducted by Mr. K. D. Jayakody, introducing participants to AI technologies in visual production. Day two focused on specialized workshops by Priyantha Bandara, Bhanuka Kaluarachchi, and Ravi Ranasinghe, covering landscape, wildlife, and street photography respectively. The event concluded with the Sanroopana Awarding Ceremony, with Mr. Henry Rajakaruna as Chief Guest.

Sanroopana 2025 stands as testament to the University of Ruhuna's commitment to fostering creativity, leadership, and knowledge-sharing at the national level.



RuEdCa2025: Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science of the University of Ruhuna successfully organized RuEdCa 2025, a career fair aimed at empowering futures and unlocking opportunities for undergraduates, on 30th September 2025 at the Faculty of Science premises. The event was organized by the Ruhuna Science Career Circle to enhance students' career readiness through strengthened university-industry engagement. With the participation of over 40 leading companies and more than 150 enthusiastic undergraduates, RuEdCa 2025 provided a vibrant platform connecting academic talent with professional opportunities. The event was proudly powered by MAS Holdings, the main sponsor, whose support played a vital role in its success.



The career fair featured networking opportunities and direct interactions between industry professionals and students. Representatives from diverse sectors shared insights into industry expectations and emerging employment trends, enabling students to gain a clearer understanding of the professional landscape. The occasion was further enriched by the presence of Mr. Eranga Ruberu, who attended the event as a Special Guest, contributing valuable industry perspectives. RuEdCa 2025 had a significant impact on participants by enhancing their awareness of career options, employability skills, and industry requirements. Students benefited from firsthand exposure to corporate culture, recruitment processes, and professional communication. The event also strengthened collaboration between the Faculty of Science and the corporate sector, reinforcing the University of Ruhuna's commitment to producing competent and future-ready graduates.

The success of the event was graced by the guidance of the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. (Mrs.) D. H. N. Munasinghe, Faculty Career Advisor Prof. Sarath Wanniarachchi, and Faculty Career Counselor Ms. Sujeewa Vidanagamage. The Faculty of Science extends sincere appreciation to MAS Holdings, participating companies, academic staff, organizers, and volunteers for their valuable contributions.

“Pahan Pooja Pinkama” – Welcoming the New Year with Blessings

To welcome the New Year 2026 with peace and spiritual blessings, a Pahan Pooja Pinkama was held on 1st January 2026 at Hapugala Temple, with the participation of the Engineering Faculty Students' Union and students.

The sacred atmosphere of the temple set a calm and serene tone as students gathered to seek blessings for the year ahead. Lighting oil lamps symbolised hope, wisdom, and the removal of darkness creating a moment of reflection, gratitude, and renewed determination. More than a religious ceremony, the event was a collective expression of faith, hope, and harmony. It strengthened unity among students and reminded us of the importance of beginning the year with positive thoughts and good intentions, seeking success in our academic journey and peace in our personal lives. This meaningful start to 2026 beautifully reflected the spiritual values and togetherness within our university community.



Career Guidance Sessions Empower Students with Industry Insights and Strategic Career Planning

Three comprehensive career guidance sessions were recently organized to equip students with practical knowledge, industry perspectives, and strategic career planning tools.

Industry Insights from INSEE Cement

A career guidance session was conducted by Ms. Hiruni Perera, General Manager – Talent & HR Services, INSEE Cement, and Ms. Thanu Fernando, Manager – Talent Acquisition, Training and Development, INSEE Cement. Drawing from their extensive experience in human resource management, the speakers highlighted key employability skills, talent development strategies, and the importance of aligning individual career aspirations with organizational expectations. The highly engaging session equipped students with practical knowledge and the confidence needed to navigate today's competitive job market and make informed career decisions.



Career Exploration and Self-Development Session

A special session organized by the Circle of Human Resource Development was held at MFLT 2B, Faculty of Management and Finance, to help students explore possibilities, identify strengths, and shape roadmaps to their dream careers. Conducted by the Department of Manpower and Employment, Ministry of Labour, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna, the session provided valuable guidance on career planning, labor market opportunities, and self-development. Through expert insights and structured discussions, the program successfully empowered students to better understand their potential and strategically plan their future professional paths.

Elevator HR 2025

This session provided participants with valuable industry-driven perspectives on modern performance management practices, emphasizing continuous improvement, goal alignment, employee development, and leadership responsibility. Drawing from his extensive corporate experience, Mr. De Silva shared practical insights, real-world examples, and strategic approaches that bridged the gap between theory and practice. The program was highly engaging and informative, enriching the knowledge of students and professionals while reinforcing the importance of effective performance management in achieving organizational success.

All sessions reflect the university's commitment to holistic student development and preparing graduates for successful careers.



“Athwela” CSR Project (Phase 5): Supporting Rural Education Through Student-Led Initiative

The “Athwela” Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project, now in its 5th phase, was successfully completed by the Circle of Human Resource Development, a student-led initiative of the Department of Human Resource Management at the University of Ruhuna. The two-month project concluded on 25th June 2025 and focused on supporting MR/Sri Medhankara Maha Vidyalaya in Porathota, Matara a rural school facing challenges such as inadequate books and poor classroom conditions.

Key Activities include donation of essential educational resources including books and stationery to 272 students, renovation of classrooms and upgraded basic infrastructure. Further, they organized student engagement programs, including leadership training and motivational sessions, to enhance personal growth and educational opportunities.

The project made a lasting impact by strengthening the foundation for quality education at the school. The overwhelming happiness of the students and the positive transformation



reflected the initiative's success. The project also reinforced a sense of social responsibility among participating HRM undergraduates.

Yaamayaka Arumasiya: A Night to Embrace New Talent at Ruhuna Engineering

Yaamayaka Arumasiya is a vibrant celebration held at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, dedicated to welcoming the newly admitted batch and appreciating their talents. Organized by the Students' Union in collaboration with the Art Society, the event was hosted at the Faculty Auditorium, beautifully decorated to set a lively and festive tone for the evening. The program featured energetic dances and melodious songs that captivated the audience, with students from the 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th batches all taking part filling the night with music, joy, and artistic expression.

Beyond the performances, Yaamayaka Arumasiya carries a deeper meaning. It serves as a platform for freshers to express their creativity, build confidence, and forge meaningful connections with their seniors, nurturing a spirit of friendship, brotherhood, and mutual understanding. Each year, this celebration reaffirms that talent, teamwork, and togetherness form the heart of the Ruhuna Engineering community.



Ignite Your Confidence – A Leadership Development Workshop

The Career Guidance Cell (CGC) and Faculty of Technology Career Circle (FOTCC) successfully organized a Leadership Development Workshop titled “Ignite Your Confidence” on 11th and 12th October 2025 at the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna. The two-day workshop, conducted in collaboration with the People.lk Training Team, aimed to strengthen leadership and decision-making skills among undergraduates.

Coordinated by Ms. Mevuni Jayathilaka (CGC member) and facilitated by the People.lk Training Team, the workshop saw participation from 80 students and several dedicated undergraduate volunteers from FOTCC. Day One featured group formation activities, energizers, leadership discussions, and the Human Knot exercise, followed by a creative treasure hunt led by Mr. Vidusha Samarasinghe. Participants engaged in teamwork and problem-solving challenges designed to enhance decision-making and coordination skills. The day concluded with a fire camp session at the Faculty Grounds, where participants performed dance dramas, creative skits, singing, and dancing, celebrating teamwork and creativity.

Day Two continued with interactive sessions on communication and leadership led by Mr. Kosala Gunawardhana, Freelancing Journalist and Youth Trainer. Practical activities including the Decision-Making Game and Trust-Building Tasks encouraged participants to develop self-confidence, adaptability, and resilience. The workshop concluded with instructions for a community-based project, which will serve as a practical application of the skills learned and a requirement for the certificate of completion.

The “Ignite Your Confidence” workshop provided an inspiring and practical learning experience, fostering leadership qualities, self-awareness, and teamwork. It marked another successful initiative by the Career Circle and Career Guidance Unit in supporting student personal and professional development.



“Swaraaranya”: The annual musical event of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology



The annual musical event of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) “Swaraaranya 2025” third phase was held on 26th August 2025 from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm at FMST auditorium. Prof. Terney Pradeep Kumara joined by giving contemplations for nine songs which were performed by the FMST musical band “UNCLOSE”.

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Padura 2026 – A Celebration of Aesthetic Talents: Faculty of Engineering

Organized by the Engineering Faculty Students' Union in collaboration with the Art Society, Padura was a vibrant celebration of music, dance, and traditional Sinhala culture, a testament to the fact that engineering students shine not only in academics but in the arts as well.

The evening came alive with soulful singing, energetic dance performances, and beautifully coordinated group acts, many of which were deeply rooted in traditional Sinhala heritage. Folk rhythms, graceful movements, and meaningful lyrics painted a rich cultural tapestry on stage, bringing our traditions to life in a colorful and memorable way.

Every performance reflected dedication, passion, and teamwork. The singers captivated the audience with melodious voices while the dancers conveyed stories and emotions through powerful, expressive movement.



The event strengthened bonds across batches and created lasting memories for all who attended. Padura was a reminder that creativity and technical knowledge

go hand in hand and that behind every engineer lies a hidden artist waiting to be expressed. It will remain a cherished chapter in the history of our Engineering Faculty.



Disaster Relief Collection & Distribution Programs

Department of Geography: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Geographical and Environmental Science Society of the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna, successfully concluded their Disaster Relief Collection & Distribution Program on 03rd December 2025 to support people affected by Cyclone Ditwah. All collected items were handed over to the Matara Police Station, from where they will be dispatched to the Pannala and Giriulla area's regions that are yet to receive adequate donations. This initiative reflects the society's commitment to supporting communities in need and promoting social responsibility among students.



Faculty of Engineering

Similarly, the Engineering Faculty Students' Union organised a humanitarian campaign titled "Saranak Soyannannata Saranak Wannata" to collect donations for families severely affected by the disaster. With many left without shelter, food, and basic necessities, students stepped forward with compassion and urgency. Essential items including dry rations, clothing, sanitary goods, and other daily necessities were collected through the campaign. The overwhelming response from students and well-wishers reflected the strong humanitarian spirit within our university community. More than a donation drive, the campaign was a symbol of empathy and solidarity, a reminder that even small contributions can make a meaningful difference in rebuilding lives. It reinforced that true education lies not only in academic knowledge, but in understanding the struggles of others and extending a helping hand when it is needed most.



The Actuarial and Data Science Society (ADSS)

The Actuarial and Data Science Society (ADSS) of the University of Ruhuna successfully organized a humanitarian donation session to support underprivileged communities and undergraduates affected by the recent floods caused by Cyclone Ditwa, promoting social responsibility within the university. This initiative demonstrated the Society's commitment to applying leadership beyond academics and fostering empathy within the university community. The session collected and distributed essential items including sanitary and hygiene products, household essentials, children's necessities, school supplies, and clothing. Each contribution meaningfully improved beneficiaries' daily lives and restored hope during challenging times.

This initiative reminded members that true development extends beyond technical skills and academic excellence. Through community engagement, ADSS members experienced the importance of compassion, teamwork, and ethical responsibility qualities essential for future actuarial and data science professionals. The Actuarial and Data Science Society extends sincere gratitude to all students and well-wishers who generously supported this initiative. Its success stands as testament to the power of unity and shared humanity.



DIRI NAVODA — Rebuilding Learning Spaces Through Collective Action

The recent floods severely damaged Gampola Jinaraja Girls' College in the central region, rendering classrooms, laboratories, and the library unusable. Floodwater and mud destroyed furniture, books, laboratory equipment, and electronics.

Science Media Mosaic of the University of Ruhuna launched “Diri Navoda,” a social responsibility outreach program to help rebuild essential educational facilities. With the southern region unaffected, the university community mobilized volunteers and resources to assist the flood-stricken areas. The volunteer team comprehensively cleaned the school premises, including science and computer laboratories. In the mixed science laboratory, contaminated glassware from chemistry, physics, and biology experiments was thoroughly washed and restored where possible. While water-damaged computers could not be salvaged, restoring the laboratory spaces was a significant step toward reopening the school.



Beyond cleaning, approximately LKR 400,000 worth of books were donated to rebuild the library, supported by the Zoology & Biology Special Crew (Batch of 2010), University of Peradeniya. The project also provided dry ration packs to 100 flood-affected families in the local community, funded by Sri Lankans living in Canada.

The school management and staff expressed deep gratitude for the support, noting that reopening the school was now their immediate priority. The initiative demonstrated the power of collective action and how university-led programs can drive community recovery and build resilience.

Faculty of Science Students Shine on National Radio Following “Artha” Media Competition

In connection with the ‘Artha’ Media Competition organized by Science Media Mosaic, the media unit of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, a special program was held at the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC). On 26th December 2025, the winners of the Sinhala and English Announcing and Dubbing Competitions were invited to participate in the radio program “Sarasavi Ras Walalla”, broadcast on the Swadeshi Sewaya radio channel.

The program included both Sinhala and English segments, highlighting the university, a radio drama, and several musical performances presented by members of Science Media Mosaic. It was primarily organized with the aim of



inspiring and engaging first-year students of the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna. The event was conducted under the supervision of the Advisory Board and the Senior Executive Committee of the unit. This program stands out as one of the most remarkable events organized by the faculty, as it provided a significant opportunity for newcomers to take an important step in their media journey. In addition to participating in the program, the students were also given an educational tour of SLBC, where they observed live broadcasts and gained first-hand exposure to professional radio studio operations.

Chemistry Undergraduate Poster Competition 2025

The Chemical Society of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, hosted the 'Chemistry Undergraduate Poster Competition 2025' on 7th November 2025 for students following the BSc General degree programme at the University of Ruhuna. The competition was held under two categories aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and after a thorough evaluation of a panel of judges based on scientific content, visual design, and oral defense, the following teams emerged as winners.

Renewable Energy: Pathways to a Sustainable Future



Winners: J. M. K. S. Sampath (SC/2023/13326)
W. A. Chamudi (SC/2023/13342)

Global Environmental Pollution: Chemical Strategies for Degradation and Recycling



Winners: K. H. Dewmini Thyagi (SC/2022/12595)
A. A. P. B. Amarathunga (SC/2022/12594)
S. P. D. E. H. G. Karunathilaka (SC/2022/12567)



The winners received certificates and prizes, along with the prestigious opportunity to present their work at the Ruhuna International Undergraduate Science Symposium (RIUSS). To honor the hard work and dedication of all participants, a formal Awarding Ceremony was held at the Department of Chemistry, with the participation of the Head of the Department, Prof. Chinthaka Sanath, and Senior Prof. Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya, Chair professor of the Department of Chemistry. The Chemical Society extends its gratitude to the faculty members, judges, and student volunteers who made this event a resounding success. By fostering a spirit of "Ready, Set, React," the competition has proven that the future of Chemistry at the University of Ruhuna is in very-capable hands.



The Geethawalokana Musical Programme

The Geethavalokanaya musical programme organized by the Sinhala Society of the University of Ruhuna to evaluate the song lyrics of Dr. W. M. G. Wijesinghe, was held on 12th November 2025 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The keynote address was delivered by veteran lyricist Bandula Nanayakkarakawasam, and two new songs by Dr. Wijesinghe were also released at the event.



The Seth Pirith sermon: Department of Sinhala

To invoke blessings for the New Year 2026, the Sinhala Association of the University of Ruhuna successfully organized a Seth Pirith sermon on 31st December 2025 at 7.00 p.m. The event was held at the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna.



Empowering Undergraduates through Soft Skills Development: “Unstoppable You – නොනවතින ඔබ”

The Soft Skills Society of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, organized a personal development program titled “Unstoppable You – නොනවතින ඔබ” on 27th August 2025 at the Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology Auditorium. The program was designed to empower the students by enhancing self-awareness, building self-confidence, and encouraging the development of a positive and resilient mindset essential for personal and professional growth.



The session was conducted by Mr. Chandana Sooriyabandara, a well-recognized motivational speaker, who delivered an engaging and insightful presentation focused on identifying individual strengths and overcoming personal limitations. Through practical examples, interactive discussions, and real-life experiences, the speaker effectively motivated participants to reflect on their capabilities and adopt a growth-oriented approach toward challenges.

The event was well attended by students, who actively participated throughout the session. Participants gained valuable insights into the importance of soft skills such as self-confidence, resilience, and positive thinking in achieving academic success and career readiness. Overall, “Unstoppable You “නොනවතින ඔබ” was a successful initiative that contributed meaningfully to the personal development of students. The program aligned with the objectives of the Soft Skills Society to nurture well-rounded individuals equipped with essential soft skills, thereby supporting the holistic development of undergraduates and preparing them to face future challenges with confidence.

A Street Drama: “Normal Kathawak”

The Cinema and Drama crew of FMST Art Circle organized a street drama “Normal Kathawak” on 23rd September 2025 at 4.30 pm at FMST faculty premises.



RESUS CLUB: Faculty of Medicine

Throughout 2025, the Resus Club of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, conducted numerous programmes focused on Basic Life Support (BLS), making a meaningful contribution to community health and safety. A major highlight was the BLS training programme at REX-TRO '25, the Silver Jubilee Exhibition of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna. Over three days, the Club operated an interactive resuscitation and emergency response training stall daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. A dedicated team of over 30 instructors working in extended shifts successfully trained over 1,000 participants from the community. This initiative, led by Consultant Anaesthesiologist Dr. Upul Hapuarachchi, exemplified the dedication and professionalism of the members involved.

The year was marked by several proud milestones, including a BLS demonstration on national television (Sri Lanka Rupavahini) by Club President Ms. Ameesha Ehelamalpe, the unveiling of the Club's official noticeboard, and the launch of 'Resus Times', the Club's



inaugural newsletter, in the presence of the Dean of the Faculty, Senior Professor Thilak Weerarathna. The Club conducted numerous programmes both within the Faculty and in the wider community, including training for new student batches, school-based programmes at Sanghamitta Girls' College, Galle, and a large-scale BLS training programme at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, commemorating "World Restart a Heart Day" on 16th October 2025. Members also contributed to ward-based CPR training at the German-Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital for Women and the Advanced Life Support programme for pre-intern doctors at the Department of Anaesthesiology. The Resus Club remains committed to expanding its initiatives and promoting lifesaving skills and community engagement in the coming year.

Industrial Expo 2025: Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

The Society of Limnology and Water Technology of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology successfully participated in the Innovation Arena at Industrial Expo 2025, the country's largest annual industrial exhibition, held at BMICH from 18th to 21st September 2025. The society's stall showcased innovation, creativity, and industry-oriented solutions while highlighting strong teamwork and collaboration.

Coordinated by Dr. L. N. Wijewardene and Prof. H. B. Asanthi of the Department of Limnology and Water Technology, with active participation of undergraduate students, this initiative promoted the practical application of limnological knowledge. It served as an effective platform to raise awareness among industry representatives and the public about freshwater ecosystems, the economic potential of freshwater plant and algae-based products, and their role as sustainable solutions for water resource management.



Robotic Competition 2025: Techno Bot Club showcases Innovation and Technical Excellence

The Robotic Competition was successfully held on 13th September 2025 at the 7001 Lecture Hall, organized by the Techno Bot Club of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna. The event brought together 10 teams comprising undergraduates from all academic years, creating an exciting and challenging environment for learning and innovation.

The competition focused on line-following robots, with teams required to design robots that met strict guidelines for high accuracy, compatible coding, and precise design. Participants worked intensively, coding and testing their robots, making the competition both demanding and highly educational.

Winners were recognized with certificates for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, celebrating their creativity, technical skill, and problem-solving abilities. The event strengthened connections between students and the Faculty of Technology, as participants applied classroom knowledge to real-world challenges under the guidance and support of faculty advisors.



The competition was organized under the guidance of Senior Treasurer Dr. V. H. P. Vitharana and Academic Career Advisor Eng. Mr. G. G. G. Rajith Gihara, whose support ensured smooth execution and meaningful engagement. Overall, the event provided undergraduates with a valuable platform to showcase their technical skills, experience healthy competition, and gain confidence in pursuing careers in robotics, coding, and automation.

Artha'25 – Discovering the Emerging Voices of the Faculty of Science



The Science Media Mosaic, the media unit of the Faculty of Science, held its second intra-faculty announcing and dubbing competition on 9th November 2025 at the Science Faculty Complex. The competition featured four categories including live presenting and dubbing in both Sinhala and English preceded by a preparatory workshop where participants learned techniques and built confidence.

A professional panel of five judges from TV Derana, Siyatha TV, and Neth FM evaluated the competitors, commending their enthusiasm and talent despite their science backgrounds. Winners received certificates from Prof. D.H.N. Munasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Science and the judging panel on the same day.

The competition provided a platform for discovering hidden talents within the faculty. Some participants had abandoned their passion for announcing and dubbing after entering university, while others discovered their abilities for the first time. Beyond the results, students valued the opportunity to develop public speaking skills, express their artistic abilities, and build connections with peers. As science communication becomes an increasingly essential skill, the Faculty of Science's initiative to nurture these emerging voices represents a meaningful investment in students' professional development.

Workshop on Drug Prevention and Counselling

The University of Ruhuna successfully conducted a one-day Workshop on Drug Prevention and Counselling on 31st August at the PB3 Hall, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies. The programme was organized by the Center for Mindfulness, University of Ruhuna, in collaboration with the National Drug Prevention Operation Unit of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs, Sri Lanka.

The workshop aimed to empower students with essential knowledge and practical skills to address drug-related challenges while promoting mental well-being and healthy lifestyles. Sessions covered drug prevention strategies, basic counselling approaches, and the role of mindfulness in building psychological resilience, with interactive discussions encouraging active participation and deeper understanding.

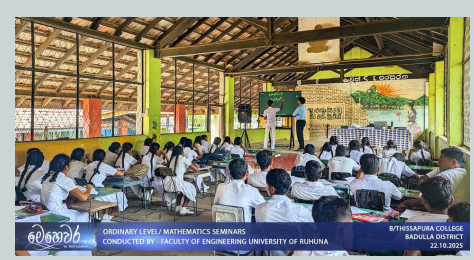


This initiative reflected the University's commitment to student welfare, holistic education, and social responsibility, as well as its ongoing efforts to collaborate with national institutions in addressing critical issues affecting youth. The organizers extend their sincere appreciation to all participants, facilitators, resource persons, the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Students Counselling Team for their valuable support and contributions.



“Mehewara” – Empowering Young Minds

During the vacations, students of the faculty of Engineering proudly took part in “Mehewara”, an educational initiative aimed at supporting G.C.E. Ordinary Level (O/L) students across different provinces through guided paper discussions and structured practice sessions.



University students traveled province-wise to various schools, reaching a significant number of O/L candidates from diverse educational backgrounds. Each session began with a short assessment to evaluate students' knowledge levels, after which they were grouped accordingly to receive focused, tailored guidance. Past papers and model papers were then discussed based on each group's understanding, ensuring every student received the support needed to improve confidently. More than an academic program, Mehewara was an experience of teamwork, dedication, and social responsibility. The enthusiasm and determination of the school students inspired us deeply, reminding them that education is not only about personal achievement but also about uplifting others. This initiative remains a proud memory of their university life, a time when they stepped beyond the classroom to make a meaningful difference in the community.

Launching the Wall Magazine: Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies

The Pali and Buddhist Studies Association successfully launched the Wall Magazine under the guidance of Venerable Dr. Koggalle Wijitha Thero, Head of the Department, along with Dr. Venerable Makola Mangala Thero, Professor Sirinama Bandara, and academic staff members. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the Editor, Ms. Dilini Harshani, in recognition of her valuable contribution. The dedication of the newly appointed Board of Officers, including President Rev. N. Nanda Thero and Secretary Ms. Nimasha Sandipani, was also warmly acknowledged.

As a token of respect, third-year students presented a photograph to Assistant Lecturer Ms. Netmi Vithakshi, honoring her service during her temporary lecturing period at the University of Ruhuna.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty, highlighting the Department's commitment to fostering creativity, collaboration, and active student engagement. The Wall Magazine continues to provide a platform for students to express ideas, share knowledge, and contribute to the vibrant academic and cultural life of the Department.



"Take What You Need - Give What You Can" - Festive Celebration

The Pali and Buddhist Studies Association and the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna, hosted an event themed "Take What You Need - Give What You Can" from 30th December 2025 to 1st January 2026 at the Y-Junction of the University. The event united students, faculty, and staff in celebrating Christmas and New Year while fostering generosity and community spirit.

One participant remarked, "This was the most beautiful sight I have seen in my 34 years at the University. Experiencing this just two years before retirement was truly a blessing."

The event was led by Venerable Dr. Koggalle Wijitha Thero, Head of the Department, alongside Senior Lecturer Venerable Thaldena Ariyawimala Thero, Lecturer Venerable Parasangaswewa Sumanathissa Thero, Dr. Kokila Ramanayake, Dr. Ravindu Abeygunawardena, and other academic staff. Students from all three years participated, making it a memorable celebration of unity, fellowship, and goodwill.



Faculty Day 2025: Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Faculty Day 2025 of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology was held on 25th September 2025 at the University of Ruhuna playground, bringing together students and academic staff in an atmosphere of enthusiasm, teamwork, and collegiate spirit. The event successfully fostered a sense of unity and belonging within the faculty community.



For the occasion, students were organised into four competitive houses, Topaz Eagles, Malachite Jellies, Sapphire Whales, and Ruby Skates each demonstrating commendable determination and teamwork throughout the day. The grounds were animated with house colours, spirited chants, and healthy rivalry, motivating participants to deliver their best performances. A diverse range of sports and recreational activities was organised, including cricket matches, track and field events, and team-based games. A notable highlight of Faculty Day 2025 was the active participation of academic staff members, which served to strengthen student-staff relationships beyond the formal academic environment. Their involvement inspired students and reflected the inclusive and collaborative culture that defines the faculty.



At the conclusion of the event, Topaz Eagles emerged as the overall champions, earning well-deserved recognition for their consistent performance and exemplary teamwork across all events. Their victory was a testament to dedication, coordination, and sportsmanship. Faculty Day 2025 successfully promoted physical well-being, communal pride, and faculty unity, leaving a lasting impression on all who participated.

Shramadana Campaign: Faculty of Engineering

As part of the Rextro Silver Jubilee celebrations, a Shramadana Campaign was organised to enhance and beautify the Engineering Faculty premises. Students from all batches came together with enthusiasm, participating in cleaning, maintaining common areas, and improving the overall environment. Senior batches further supported the effort by funding essential materials such as paints and renovation supplies. The Dean and lecturers also joined in, reinforcing that maintaining the faculty is a shared responsibility and inspiring a strong sense of belonging and pride.

More than a cleaning program, the campaign symbolised gratitude and respect for the institution that shapes our future perfectly reflecting the Silver Jubilee spirit of celebrating 25 years of excellence while strengthening unity and commitment for the years ahead.



“සොබාදාරා Sobadhara”: A reef clean-up project

The Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science & Technology (FMST), University of Ruhuna, actively contributed to a national-level marine conservation programme through the participation of trained student divers from the Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG). The initiative took place at the Hikkaduwa reef on 26th December 2025 and formed part of a reef clean-up project organized by the Leo Club of the University of Colombo under its community-based environmental conservation programme titled “සොබාදාරා (Sobadhara).”

Recognizing the technical expertise and practical experience of FMST students in marine and underwater activities, the Leo Club formally requested the participation of departmental divers to support the underwater clean-up operations. Following departmental coordination and approval, four trained student divers were deployed for the programme.



They actively engaged in underwater debris removal from the reef, contributing to the protection of coral reef habitats and the enhancement of overall marine environmental quality supporting the Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life Below Water which focuses on conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas, and marine resources. Their involvement ensured that clean-up activities were conducted safely, responsibly, and with minimal disturbance to marine organisms. The “Sobadhara” project also included coral brushing, beach cleaning, turtle releasing, and an environmental awareness programme aimed at promoting sustainable coastal conservation practices among local communities and volunteers. The participation of SOMaG students strengthened inter-university collaboration while demonstrating the University of Ruhuna’s commitment to community engagement, applied marine science, and the advancement of global sustainability goals.

“Prathiba Prabha” Creative Expression Board

The “Prathiba Prabha” creative expression board, organized by the Sinhala Society of the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna, was recently launched by the newly appointed Sinhala Society of 2025. The creative board was prepared by 2000 level students, supported by 3000 level students, under the guidance of Senior Treasurer Dr. Ven. Morakandegoda Ariyawansa Thero.

The event was graced by the Head of Department, Professor Sandhya Kahandagamage, Senior Lecturer Jayani Sameera, Assistant Lecturers, and enthusiastic students.



Youth Space 5.0: Faculty of Engineering

Organized by AIESEC in University of Ruhuna, Youth Space 5.0 stands as a youth-centered initiative dedicated to guiding young individuals toward informed and confident career choices. Designed as a dynamic platform, the project enables A/L students, school leavers, undergraduates, and young professionals across Sri Lanka to explore diverse career pathways, understand evolving industry expectations, and develop the essential skills required to thrive in today's competitive world.



Structured into three impactful phases, OBT (Out-bound Training), Online Sessions, and the signature Panel Discussion, the Youth Space 5.0 ensures a comprehensive developmental journey.

The OBT phase focuses on foundational growth through interactive activities that help participants identify personal strengths, explore emerging industries, and enhance soft skills such as communication, adaptability, and self-awareness. It also provides valuable insights into entrepreneurship and online business opportunities. The Online Sessions broaden accessibility by connecting youth with industry experts who offer practical career guidance, share market insights, and introduce digital career trends through engaging discussions and interactive Q&A sessions.

Concluding with a powerful Panel Discussion, the initiative brings together experienced professionals who share real-world journeys, clarify industry expectations, and offer ac-



tionable advice to help young individuals overcome challenges and build resilience. By combining skill development, industry exposure, and meaningful engagement, Youth Space 5.0 creates a supportive environment that empowers Sri Lankan youth to unlock opportunities, strengthen their capabilities, and confidently shape their professional futures.



LDS 5.0: Two-day Residential Leadership Training

Organized by AIESEC in University of Ruhuna, LDS 5.0 brought together nearly 100 dynamic delegates for an inspiring two-day residential experience at Lavanga Beach and Spa on November 15th and 16th, 2025. Designed as an immersive platform for young leaders, the seminar featured impactful leadership development sessions, an engaging Outdoor-Based Training (OBT) experience that strengthened teamwork and resilience, and a vibrant theme party celebrating unity and diversity within AIESEC.

Participants representing various faculties of the University of Ruhuna explored purpose-driven leadership, enhanced their decision-making and problem-solving skills, and built meaningful networks that extend beyond campus boundaries.



The success of LDS 5.0 was made possible through the generous support of partners, including Kobra Energy Drinks, Varun Beverages, Zellers Colombo, Cupcakery, Atlas, Zaccal Clothing, Good PR, Purple Thoughts, Uni Today, Candles by Laura, Leisure Land, Bernads Gurubeula Dairy, Papertsukico, Doliz Gallery, Infocoder, DOR Clicks, Watalappam & Co, Pearl Bay Jewel, Inara, SLIIM IBSC International Campus, Vacation VibeZ, AGGA Steels Pvt Ltd, DR Constructions, C&HS Organization, Mansaranna, NES Constructions, and Ruhuna FM. Their valuable contributions helped create a transformative and memorable leadership journey for the next generation of change-makers.

Blood Donation Camp – A Gift of Life to the Community

As part of the Rextro Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Faculty of Engineering, a Blood Donation Camp was successfully organized at the Hapugala Temple on 26th November 2025, a meaningful expression of compassion and social responsibility. The event was coordinated by the Engineering Faculty Students' Union in line with the the 25th anniversary celebrations, reflecting the faculty's commitment not only to academic excellence but also to giving back to society.



This initiative stood as a symbol of unity, humanity, and social commitment a reminder that blood donation, one of the simplest acts of kindness, can save lives in the most powerful way. The Silver Jubilee thus became more than a milestone. It became a testament that true success is measured by how meaningfully we serve others.

“A New Dawn” Interfaculty Competition Victories of the Faculty of Medicine

The third phase of the “A New Dawn” Interfaculty Competitions 2025 was organised by the Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Social Reconciliation Centre on 30th July 2025. The final showcase was held on 30th October 2025 at the auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Lalindi De Silva and Dr. Vishari De Silva currently serve as Coordinators of the Cultural Centre for the Faculty of Medicine.

The Faculty of Medicine demonstrated strong representation from different academic years. The students performed exceptionally and secured numerous awards, bringing pride to the faculty. These achievements reflect their dedication to arts and culture and highlight the diverse talents and multifaceted excellence of students in literature, music, dance, drama, and visual arts. Congratulations to all winners!



Literary Events

Lyrics – English: 1st – I.A.S. Welikala
Poetry (Free Verse) – Sinhala: 1st & 3rd – P.S.T.T. Dayananda
Poetry (Free Verse) – English: 1st – Hamna Marikkar, 2nd – S.M.S.D. Senadhipathi, 3rd – M.D.S.H. Perera
Poetry (Sades) – Sinhala: 1st – R.G. Sewmini
Short Stories – Sinhala: 1st – S.G.A.I. Ehelamalpe, 3rd – P.S.T.T. Dayananda
Short Stories – English: 1st – T.N. Kuruwitaarachchi, 2nd – A.K. Periyapperuma, 3rd – L.A. Supuni Upeksha
Short Novel – Sinhala: 2nd – S.A.H.G. Samaragoon

Music & Singing

Simple Song (Tamil): 2nd – M.R.F. Sameeha
Simple Song (English): 2nd – M.R.F. Sumaiya
Oriental Song – Sinhala: 1st – Y.K. Widanapathirana, 3rd – V.B. Bogahawaththa
Folk Song: 2nd – L.T.L.M. Wijewardhana
Simple Song (Group) – Sinhala: 1st – L.P.C. Lasandee, P.K.H. Rashinika, M.R.F. Sumaiya, S.C.N. De Silva, A.T. Kuruppu, R.M.A.M. Rasnayaka, R.M.N.S. Rathnayake, A.M.M. Oshini, K.T. Palliyaguruge, D.P.M. Saparamadu, T.V.G.A. Perera
Simple Song (Group) – English: 1st – K.T. Palliyaguruge, M.R.F. Sumaiya, A.T. Kuruppu, S.C.N. De Silva, S.S. Wickramarathna, A.M.M. Oshini, K.M.G.R.P. Hemachandra, D.P.M. Saparamadu, A.M. Thissera
Oriental Singing (Group) – Sinhala: 1st – W.P.Y.K. Widanapathirana, B.G.W.M.V.B. Bogahawaththa, H.L. Kavindya, R.R.D. Wimalarathna, M.P. Jayalath, M.H.T.A. Sanjula, L.T.L.M. Wijewardhana, I.A.S. Welikala, P.K.C. Rashinika, R.M.A. Rasnayaka, M.K.U. Sammani, F.S.M. Rameez, A.D.L.M. Kumara
2nd – V.B. Bogahawaththa & H.L. Kavindya

Dancing

Pahatharata (Female) – Traditional Solo: 1st – S.A.S.A. De Silva
Bharatham – Tamil Traditional Solo: 2nd – W.G.N. Fernando
Traditional Group Dance – Sinhala (Udara): 1st – L.T. Senadheera, S.A.S.A. De Silva, W.G.N. Fernando, M.A.L. Mansila, H.D.R. Perera, K.H.D.C. Rathnayaka, E.A.N. Tharushika, M.K. Nethmini, T.N. Kuruwitaarachchi, P.G.D.S.N. Premachandra, G.D.H.K. Gamage, Y.M.D. Kusalya, L.W.C.L. Lokuliyana
Freestyle Dance – Sinhala: 1st – S.A.S.A. De Silva
Freestyle Dance (Group) – Sinhala: 2nd – H.D.S. Akalanka & G.K. Premawardhana

Drama

Short Drama (Group) – English: 1st – R.D.K. Ranmini, H.A.E.L. Pramod (Best Actor), C. de Silva, S. de Silva, W.A.K.M.P. Weerawardhana, N.T. Wijayatilaka, L. Kumara, F.D.A.N. Chithrananda, G.V.L.L. Gunarathna, R.D.K. Ranmini (Best Actress), A.K. Periyapperuma, T.B. Gajasingha, M.R.F. Sumaiya, N.K.M.H. Himansha, M.N.M. Amarasinghe
Long Drama (Group) – Sinhala: 1st – R.D.K. Ranmini, W.A.K.M.P. Weerawardhana (Best Actress), W.A.M.M. Wickramasinghe, H.A.E.L. Pramod (Best Actor), T.B. Gajasinghe, M.K.D.M. Fernando, G.V.L.L. Gunarathna, M.R.A.J. Mallikarathne, M.G.S.S. Maliyadda, F.D.A.N. Chithrananda, N.K.M.H. Himansha

Visual Arts

Publishing Art: 1st – V.B. Bogahawaththa, 2nd – D.D. Ravindupriya, 3rd – D.D. Ravindupriya
Portrait Art: 2nd – M.A.N.I. Moragoda

Department of Biosystems Technology Secures TRACE Research Grant for Sustainable Food Innovation

A research team from the Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, has been awarded the TRACE Research and Development Grant for their project titled "Development of Plant-Based Protein-Enriched Burger Patties with *Moringa oleifera* Powder and Computational Characterization of Their Bioactive Compounds."

The project focuses on developing sustainable, plant-based protein food products while investigating the health-promoting bioactive compounds, quercetin, rutin, and kaempferol present in *Moringa oleifera* using computational characterization techniques. The research is supervised by Dr. Kaushalya Wijayasekara, Dr. Thisa Karunaratne, and Mr. A. W. A. T. Dilhan. The student research team comprises M. K. Lochana Lakshani, B. D. Imesha Tharangani, and L. Prabavi Madushika Ratnayake.



This achievement underscores the faculty's commitment to innovation in sustainable food solutions, value addition to local resources, and the advancement of functional foods with potential health benefits.

Student Exchange Program - Guizhou University, China

Under the Student Exchange Program between Guizhou University, China, and the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Ms. K.A. Kithmini Dilrangi (AG/AT/2020/5231) of the Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, was selected to undertake her internship training at the Plant Pathology Laboratory, Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, Guizhou University, China.



The internship was conducted from 8th August 2025 to 20th October 2025 under the supervision of Professor Wang Yong, Head of the Department of Plant Protection, and Dr. Chada Norphanphoun,

Associate Professor, Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, Guizhou University. During the training period, Ms. Dilrangi gained hands-on experience in advanced plant pathology research, with particular emphasis on global approaches to plant disease management and sustainable agriculture.

Interuniversity Undergraduate Research Award in Chemical Sciences 2025

Ms. Anudi Kirindage, a Bsc.(Hons) Chemistry undergraduate of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, secured Second Runner-Up at the Inter-University Research Competition in Chemical Sciences 2025, organized by Section E2 of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS). Her research titled "Computational Study of Nonlinear Optical Properties of Metal Alkynyl Complexes: Impact of Bridge Modification on First Hyperpolarizability," was carried out under the supervision of Dr. M. S. Kodikara. The achievement reflects the strong research culture and academic support provided by the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna.



China-Sri Lanka Tea Ecological Control Summer School Program

Three undergraduates from the Faculty of Agriculture were selected to participate in the prestigious China-Sri Lanka Tea Ecological Control Summer School Program at Guizhou University, China, from 8th to 19th August 2025. Ms. K.A. Kithmini Ditrangi (AG/AT/2020/5231), Mr. Manul Perera (AG/AT/2020/5279), and Mr. D.K.D.A. Yohan Gunathilake (AG/AT/2022/5825) represented the university in this competitive international program focused on sustainable agricultural development and technological innovation in the tea industry.

The program provided exceptional exposure to world-class research infrastructure and modern agricultural technologies. Participants visited the State Key Laboratory of Green Pesticides, the Entomology Laboratory, and the Big Data Center at Guizhou University, gaining insights into cutting-edge pest management strategies and digital agriculture applications. A field visit to Tuhongpo Tea Industry Co. Ltd. offered practical experience in ecological tea plantation management and industrial-scale sustainable farming practices.

The academic curriculum featured expert-led sessions on green pesticides, laboratory safety, scientific literature management, digitization of plant disease-pesticide interactions, and eco-friendly pest management solutions. These sessions equipped participants with advanced technical knowledge and essential research skills applicable to contemporary agricultural challenges.

This achievement highlights the university's commitment to international collaboration and its standing as a leader in agricultural education. The program strengthened bilateral academic ties between China and Sri Lanka while providing our students with invaluable opportunities for knowledge exchange, cultural understanding, and professional development. Their participation underscores the university's dedication to producing graduates equipped to address global agricultural challenges through sustainable, technology-driven solutions.



Best Oral Presentation at the ICAPS 2025

W.A.K. Dharani Upeksha Withanarachchi who was graduated in 2025 with Second Class (Lower Division) in BSc. Honours in Botany was awarded Best Oral Presenter under the Biological Sciences theme at the International Conference on Pure and Applied Sciences (ICAPS) 2025, held on 10 October 2025 at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. The award was received for a presentation based on her final-year research project, which was supervised by Prof. W.G. Shirani Manel Kumari of the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science.



Final Year Student, Miss. Chamnidri Fonseka attended international events at India and Indonesia

Training programme on “Introduction to Archaeozoology – Bones & Beyond”.

Miss Chaamindri Fernando, a final year student of the Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ruhuna, represented Sri Lanka at the international training programme “Bones & Beyond: Unlocking the Past Through Faunal Remains,” held from 9th to 12th October 2025 at the Indian Numismatic, Historical and Cultural Research Foundation (INHCRF), Nashik, India.



As the sole Sri Lankan participant, Chaamindri received intensive hands-on training in Archaeozoology, covering mammalian osteology, skeletal identification, taphonomy, faunal analysis, and experimental replication of ancient bone tools. The programme was guided by renowned scholars Dr. Pankaj Goyal and Ms. Nibedita Naskar of Deccan College, Pune.

This opportunity was facilitated by Dr. Upeksha Gamage, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, whose encouragement and support reflect the university's commitment to nurturing scholars and fostering international academic engagement. The University of Ruhuna's role in enabling this participation underscores its dedication to academic excellence, research exposure, and global collaboration.

International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (UISPP) Inter-Regional Congress APT2025:

Miss. Chaamindri Fernando, represented both Sri Lanka and the university at the UISPP Inter-Regional Congress 2025 (APT2025), held in Java, Indonesia, from 27th October to 6th November 2025, organised by Satya Wacana Christian University. Her research paper, presented at the 54th Session on “Prehistory and Education: A Social Responsibility,” was prepared under the guidance of Mrs. K.V.J. Koshalee. Following a competitive evaluation, Chaamindri received an official invitation and academic grant from the UISPP Scientific Committee supporting registration, membership and air fair.

The congress, themed “Asian Prehistory Today: Bridging Science, Heritage and Development,” brought together 270 leading scholars globally. The programme featured



academic sessions, site visits to Salatiga, Sangiran Early Man Site, and Yogyakarta, and exhibitions of original hominin fossils. This achievement reflects the University of Ruhuna's commitment to undergraduate research empowerment, academic excellence, and global engagement, affirming its role in shaping scholars capable of meaningful contributions to the international academic community.

From Local Impact to Global Recognition: AIESEC in Ruhuna 25.26

The 25.26 Winter Term stands as a remarkable milestone for AIESEC in University of Ruhuna, reflecting a season of excellence, growth, and consistent impact across the network. With its presence spanning all nine faculties of the University of Ruhuna, the entity continues to unite undergraduates from diverse academic disciplines under one shared purpose activating youth leadership through meaningful global opportunities.

During the National Leadership Summit 2025, AIESEC in Ruhuna gained notable recognition under the prestigious “Activating Leadership” category, receiving nominations for Incoming Global Volunteer and Customer Experience & Operations, acknowledging its strong delivery standards and commitment to quality experiences. Most prominently, the entity emerged as the Winner – Activating Leadership - Incoming Global Talent, highlighting exceptional performance in facilitating professional international internships and ensuring impactful cross-cultural experiences for both participants and partners.

Strengthening its regional and global footprint, AIESEC in Ruhuna was further recognized at the Asia Pacific Leaders Summit 2025, demonstrating its growing influence within the broader network. In addition, the entity was hon-



ored as a Nominee – Incoming Global Talent Award, reflecting its consistent efforts in delivering high-quality professional exchange experiences. Complementing this achievement, AIESEC in Ruhuna also secured the Global Talent Collaboration Award and the Outgoing Global Talent Performance Award, underscoring its strategic international partnerships and outstanding results in enabling Sri Lankan youth to access global career opportunities.

These accolades represent more than awards, they symbolize the dedication, resilience, and collaborative spirit of members across all nine faculties. The achievements of the 25.26 Winter Term reaffirm AIESEC in Ruhuna's commitment to excellence, operational strength, and its mission of shaping young leaders capable of creating lasting impact both locally and globally.

Best Oral Presentation at the ICMS 2025

Miss. J. P. Madusha Darshani, who was graduated in 2025 with Second Class (Upper Division) in BSc. Honours in Botany received the Best Scientific Award at the International Conference on Mangroves for Sustainability (ICMS) 2025, held in Sri Lanka from 22nd to 26th July 2025. This recognition was awarded for a research based on her final-year research project, conducted under the supervision of Prof. K. A. S. Kodikara of the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science.



Outstanding Scholarly Publication Award 2024 Conferred on Dr. Ven. Koggalle Wijitha Thero

The book "Buddhist Psychology", authored by Dr. Ven. Koggalle Wijitha Thero, Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, was conferred the Award for Outstanding Scholarly Publication of the Year 2024. This prestigious recognition reflects the publication's significant contribution to academic scholarship in Buddhist Psychology and Buddhist Counselling.

Dr. Ven. Koggalle Wijitha Thero is widely recognised as a leading authority in these fields within the national university system. His extensive body of work, spanning research-based books and academic articles, reflects a deep engagement with both classical Buddhist teachings and contemporary psychological discourse. Buddhist Psychology is particularly noted for its rigorous methodology, analytical clarity, and relevance to students, scholars, and higher education institutions across Sri Lanka. The University of Ruhuna takes great pride in this achievement and extends its sincere congratulations to Dr. Ven. Koggalle Wijitha Thero, whose intellectual leadership and academic dedication continue to strengthen the research culture and national standing of the University.



DAAD Research Ambassador (2025 – 2028)

Dr. Lishani Wijewardene of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology has been appointed as a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Research Ambassador for the 2025–2028 term. DAAD Research Ambassadors play a vital role in advancing academic and scientific collaboration with Germany, serving as trusted sources of information on education and research, as well as key facilitators of academic partnerships and collaborative projects.

As part of her tenure, Dr. Wijewardene participated in the DAAD Research Ambassadors' orientation meeting held from 16th to 18th November 2025 in New Delhi, India. She further contributed to research dialogue by serving as a panellist at the discussion on "Strengthening Research Centers of Excellence for Societal Transformation" during Research Week 2025, organized by the University of Moratuwa on 11th December 2025.

In her role as a Research Ambassador, Dr. Wijewardene will support academic exchange and research cooperation between Sri Lanka and Germany, while advancing DAAD's mission to promote international collaboration. She will act as a key resource for initiating academic part-



nerships and projects, and serve as a role model by informing and inspiring the next generation of students and scholars.

Prof. G. P. T. S. Hemakumara received the ANSO Fellowship

Professor G. P. T. S. Hemakumara of the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna, has been awarded a Fellowship for Full Professors by the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations (ANSO), in collaboration with the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.



SUSRED Award 2021/2022 by the NSF

Snr. Prof. D.A.L Leelamanie received the SUSRED (Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees) Award for the year 2024 by the National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka. SUSRED Award is presented to Supervisors of postgraduate research degrees in recognition of their service to the nation and to encourage universities and research institutions to promote and facilitate postgraduate research training. She received the award for supervising the MPhil study of Ms. HTM Perera, on the title of "Implications of heat-induced alterations in tropical and temperate soils on water repellency and aggregate stability".



Presidential Environment Awards 2025

Dr. Samantha Ranaweera: Faculty of Science

A research team led by Dr. Samantha Ranaweera together with Dr. Jeewantha S. Hewage, Ms. D. M. D. A. De Zoysa and Ms. V. U. Liyanagamage from the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, has successfully developed a novel method to upgrade tyre-derived pyrolytic char as a sustainable substitute for commercial carbon black. Carbon black is widely used as a filler material in the rubber industry.

The upgraded pyrolytic char has been evaluated in several rubber-based products, including tyres, plastic master batches, and carpets. Results demonstrate that partial and or full replacement of virgin carbon black with this new carbon black alternative delivers the required properties for rubber applications. In recognition of this environmentally friendly innovation and the effective utilization of waste pyrolytic char from tyre pyrolysis plants, The research team was awarded the Gold Medal at the Presidential Environmental Awards 2025. The award was conferred by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka on 23rd October 2025 at the BMICH



Ms. A. P. Hashini Imalsha Abeysuriya: Faculty of Agriculture

Ms. A. P. Hashini Imalsha Abeysuriya, Lecturer in the Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, has been awarded the Merit Award of Commendation in the Environmentally Friendly Innovation (Open - Team) Category for her outstanding contribution to environmental sustainability.

The award was presented at the Presidential Environment Awards Ceremony 2025 in recognition of her innovative development of an edible spoon designed to replace single-use plastic spoons commonly used with yoghurt.



This innovation reduces plastic waste while promoting eco-friendly, food-based alternatives that support sustainable consumption practices.

Ruhuna Physicists Honored with “Oscar of Science”: Faculty of Science Team Received 2025 Breakthrough Prize

The University of Ruhuna has achieved remarkable global recognition as four researchers from the Department of Physics received the prestigious 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. Often called the “Oscars of Science,” this award celebrates the world’s leading scientists for transformative contributions to understanding the Universe.

Emeritus Professor W.G.D. Dhar-maratna, Professor N.M. Wickram-age, Dr. K.M. Liyanage, and Mr. N. Perera were honored as part of the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) collaboration at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research). They join distinguished researchers from the ATLAS, CMS, ALICE, and LHCb collaborations collectively recognized for groundbreaking achievements, including:

- Detailed measurements of the Higgs boson, confirming the mass-given mechanism to the elementary particles.
- Discovery of new strongly-interacting particles.
- Probing rare processes and matter-antimatter asymmetry.
- Exploring nature at the shortest distances and most extreme conditions at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

The Breakthrough Prize, totaling \$3 million (approximately LKR 900 million), awarded \$1 million to the



CMS experiment. In an exemplary demonstration of scientific collaboration, the CMS team, including its Sri Lankan members, unanimously voted to donate 100% of their share to the CERN & Society Foundation. These funds will support PhD students from member institutions, including the University of Ruhuna, enabling them to conduct hands-on research at CERN in Geneva. This decision ensures the prize will not only celebrate past achievements but actively cultivate the next generation of physicists exploring the Universe’s frontiers. This international recognition underscores the exceptional quality of research at the Faculty of Science and confirms the University of Ruhuna’s pivotal role in addressing fundamental questions about the cosmos. The achievement reflects the institution’s commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and producing world-class researchers who contribute meaningfully to global scientific discovery.

A Research Team of the FMST selected for GIZ Circular Economy Incubator Programme - 2025

The research proposal titled “Chitosan extracted from discarding shellfish exoskeletons into food packaging biofilms,” developed by Mrs. R.G. Sanuja (Team Leader), Ms. E.G.K.Y.C. Bandara, Mr. A.M.K.J. Costa, and Mrs. D.N.A. Arachchi, of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology was selected for the Circular Economy in the Food Sector Incubator Programme 2025 implemented by GIZ Sri Lanka in partnership with Hatch Works on behalf of BMZ and co-financed by the EU. Prepared under the guidance of the University’s Tech Transfer Office, the proposal addresses food waste and single-use plastics by utilizing fish waste to create sustainable packaging solutions. The official launch and networking event was held on 17 September 2025 at Shangri-La Hotel, providing a



valuable platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration with key stakeholders driving the transition to a circular economy in the food sector.

SLCARP AWARD 2025

Senior Professor Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya and the team received a National Award, "SLCARP Awards for Excellence in Agricultural Research" on 23rd October at the BMICH with the participation of His Excellency, Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the President of Sri Lanka and few other ministers. This award was received in recognition of successful completion of the CARP project on "In-vivo Glycemic Index (GI), Anti oxidants, Proximate and Heritability studies of Selected Improved and Traditional Rice Varieties Cultivated in Sri Lanka. This research was conducted for a PhD degree by Department of Chemistry and funded by SLCARP. Dr. Roshni Hafeel successfully completed the PhD study and graduated in the December, 2025 convocation.



Senior Professor Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya from Department of Chemistry, University of Ruhuna served as the Principal Supervisor of the study and Prof. Eric De Zoysa from Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine of University of Ruhuna and Dr. Amita Bentota, Former Director, Rice Research and Development Institute, Batalagoda, Ibbagamuwa served as the Co-Supervisors of the study

SUSRED AWARD 2024

Senior Professor Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya and the team received SUSRED Award by the National Science Foundation for the year 2024. This award was received in recognition of the timely and successful supervision of PhD study of S. Kokilananthan under the field of Natural Product Chemistry.

Senior Professor Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya shouldered the main responsibility of this study as the Principal Supervisor and Prof. Chinthaka Sanath, and Dr. Harshi Manawadu served as the Co Supervisors. This research was Funded by AHEAD/ DOR (AHEAD/DOR/SCI/CHEM/05) during the period 2019-2023.

Dr. S. Kokilananthan completed his PhD



study within 3 & 1/2 years (amid Covid Pandemic) and study produced 10 journal publications (SCI and peer-reviewed) and over 10 conference proceedings. This research was conducted at the Department of Chemistry, University of Ruhuna, and the title of the thesis was "chemical composition, proximate composition, and antioxidant properties of leaves of *Psidium guajava* (guava), *Garcinia quaesita* (garcinia) and *Eryngium foetidum* (long coriander)"

Gamini Corea Foundation (GCF) Research Grant Award

Prof. Ganganee Chandima Samaraweera attached to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna as Principal Investigator, along with team members Mr. K.K.S. Udayakantha, Mr. I. Renuka Priyantha, Mr. W.A.N.D. Wijesinghe, and Ms. N.S.W. Gunasekara (all from the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna), were awarded a Gamini Corea Foundation (GCF) research grant of LKR 3 Million for their proposal titled "Political Economy of Agricultural Policy in Sri Lanka: Assessing the Impact of Political Involvement on Rural Development and Economic Outcomes." The award was presented on 18th December 2025 at the BMICH, Colombo 07.



Academic Staff

Appointments



Director,
Centre for International Affairs (CINTA)
Senior Professor Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya



Head of the Department
Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies
Dr. Ven. Koggalle Wijitha Thero.



Head of the Department
Department of Geography.
Professor H. I. G. C. Kumara.

Promotions

Senior Professors

Prof. A. D. S. Nagahawatta. Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine
Prof.(Mrs.).Vajira P. Bulugahapitiya, Department of Chemistry. Faculty of Science
Prof. G. D. K. Mahanama. Department of Physics, Faculty of Science
Prof. T. P. Weeraratne. Department of Medicine. Faculty of Medicine

Professors

Prof. C.L. Fonseka. Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine
Prof.(Mrs.). G.C.L. Gamage. Department of History & Archaeology. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
Prof. J.M.R.S. Appuhamy. Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. Faculty of Engineering.
Prof. W.M.K.R.T.W. Bandara. Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. Faculty of Engineering.
Prof. (Mrs.). E. K. Champika. Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. Faculty of Engineering.
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Dr. N.P.C. Samantha, Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Senior Lecturer Gr-II

Dr. (Mrs). B.G.S. Jayarathna. . Department of Animal Science. Faculty of Agriculture
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Dr. C.L.S.M. Karunaratne. Department of Crop Science. Faculty of Agriculture.
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Dr. H.G. Sushan Mayuranga, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.
Dr. (Mrs). Prasanni. Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine.
Dr. R.M.I.D. Gamage, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science.

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Ms. N.H. Gamage, Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.
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Mr.Madushanka H A I, Department of Engineering Technology.

Retirements



Dr. E. H. M. Heenbanda
Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, warmly congratulates Dr. E. H. M. Heenbanda on his retirement, marking the conclusion of a distinguished academic career spanning over three decades.

Dr. Heenbanda is a respected scholar and Senior Lecturer in Pali, renowned for his outstanding contributions to teaching, research, and academic leadership. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Special Degree in Pali with distinction from the University of Peradeniya and was conferred the prestigious title of Royal Pandith in recognition of his excellence in traditional Pali scholarship. He subsequently completed his M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Pali at the University of Peradeniya, producing original research that significantly advanced the field of Buddhist legal studies. His academic expertise encompasses Buddhist Law, jurisprudence, and Pali and Buddhist Studies, with research that explores ethical and legal frameworks within early Buddhist texts. His scholarship successfully integrates classical Pali philology with modern academic approaches, contributing valuable perspectives to both historical and contemporary discourse.

Throughout his service at the University of Ruhuna, Dr. Heenbanda served with distinction in several key roles, including Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Student Counsellor, and Head of the Department, demonstrating deep commitment to student mentoring, curriculum development, and the academic advancement of the Department. We extend our profound gratitude to Dr. Heenbanda and wish him good health and happy retirement.

Administrative Staff

Recruitments

Ms. J.A. Chamika Aravindi, Assistant Registrar, Legal & Documentation Branch.

Retirements

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Mr. D. R. A. I. Karunarathne, Assistant Network Manager (Grade I) Centre of Information Technology

Mr. D. T. Andrahennadi, Programmer Cum Systems Analyst (Grade I), Deans Office, Faculty of Agriculture

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Mr. A. G. Samitha, Staff Technical Officer (Grade I), Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering

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Mrs. S.M. Kumara, Technical Officer (Grade II) Department. of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine

Ms. M.C.K. Jayarathne, Technical Officer (Grade II), Department of Pharmacy., Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Mr. S.M.D. Deepthi Kumara, Technical Officer (Grade II), Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Mr. N.C.A. Gunasekara, Technical Officer (Grade II), Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine
Mr. R. Wasantha, Lab Attendant (Grade III), Department of Crop Science , Faculty of Agriculture
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Mr. J. S. Dissanayake, Sub Warden, Faculty of Agriculture
Ms. R. J. C. M. Jayasundara, Sub Warden , Faculty of Technology

Retirements

Mr. L.B.Kumara Gamini, Lab Attendant, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Mr. H.Upasiri, Pharmacist, Faculty of Engineering
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The 3rd Symposium on Oceans and Freshwater Systems - 2026 (SOFS-2026) will be held on 05th June 2026, under the theme of “Connecting Waters, Science, and Sustainability” at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.fmst.ruh.ac.lk/SOFS2026/>

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