

NEWSLETTER SUSL

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka



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ICSUSL 2021



The 8th International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (ICSUSL 2021), organized by CRKD, SUSL with the theme of “Bridging knowledge and experience to combat global challenges” was held from the 01st to 03rd of December 2021 in hybrid mode. The 02nd China-Sri Lanka Communication and Cooperation Forum was also held in parallel to the ICSUSL 2021. The conference aimed to provide a platform for researchers in different disciplines, students, and industrialists to share knowledge and experiences while promoting future collaborations.



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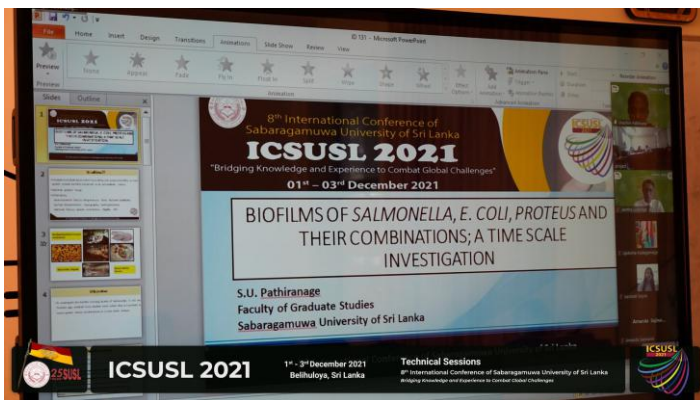
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University Events

Being one of the major events of the year-long celebrations of the 25th Anniversary of the university, ICSUSL 2021 comprised keynote and plenary speeches from eminent scholars in addition to oral and poster presentations, speed talks, pre-conference workshops, public discussions, and field visits. Prof. Lian Pin Koh, Department of Biological Sciences, The National University of Singapore and Prof. Chen Xiangjun, President, Huanggang Normal University participated as the keynote speakers of the event.



Meanwhile, Mr. Dilhan C. Fernando, CEO – Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company Plc. addressed the conference as the Guest of Honour. In addition, Prof. Ye Hailin, National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Prof. Sun Jisheng, Secretary General of China National Association for International Studies participated as the keynote speakers of the Second China-Sri Lanka Communication and Cooperation Forum.

Make it Green

A tree plantation program organized by the university was held on the 22nd of July 2021 at the Temple premises of the university.



A New Food Court



Laying the foundation stone for the *Hela Bojun* food court was held on the 18th of August 2021 with the participation of Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor, SUSL.

Vaccination Programme

The vaccination of the second dose for preventing the spread of the COVID 19 virus was held on the 13th of August 2021 at the university premises.



University Events

CVCD at SUSL

A meeting of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) was held on the 02nd of October 2021 at the Boardroom of the Vice-Chancellor's Office of SUSL. A tree-planting program organized by the university was also held on the same day in parallel with the CVCD meeting.



BOC Sponsorship

The Bank of Ceylon sponsored the “6th Interdisciplinary Conference of Management Researchers” organized by the Faculty of Management Studies. The cheque for this sponsorship was officially handed over to the university by the Manager, BOC of the university branch on the 13th of October 2021.



SUTA Donations

The Sabaragamuwa University Teachers' Association (SUTA) donated medical supplies to the university under their Covid-19 relief programme. This event took place on the 27th of October 2021 at the Vice-Chancellor's Office.



Curriculum and SLQF

An online workshop organized by the Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA), SUSL was held on the 28th of October 2021. The SLQF specialist Dr. Upali Mampitiya conducted this workshop with a view of making the academics aware of curriculum design in line with the Sri Lanka Quality Assurance Framework.

Smart University

An event organized to launch the smart university project was held on the 03rd of November 2021 with the participation of Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor; deans of the faculties; and some of the team members of the project.

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka



Workshop on Curriculum Designing in line with SLQF

Resource Person: Dr. Upali Mampitiya
SLQF Specialist

Date: 28th October 2021
Time : 9.00 am onwards
Via Online (ZOOM)

Organized by: Centre for Quality Assurance, SUSL
Contact : director@cqa.sab.ac.lk, secretary@cqa.sab.ac.lk



University Events

Collaborations

An MoU was signed between the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and the State Ministry of Gem and Jewelry Related Industries with the hope of establishing mutually beneficial collaborations with the ministry to explore the opportunities in the gem industry. In addition, this agreement also aims to enhance the teaching and research activities with the university and the gem community in Sri Lanka. The MoU was signed on the 11th of November 2021 at the Boardroom of the Vice-Chancellor's Office, SUSL.



Katina Pinkama 2022

The annual religious event was graciously held to invoke blessings on the university. The event of this year was held at the Vice-Chancellor's Office on the 14th of November 2021.



Meeting Diplomats

A meeting of the SUSL delegates with the current assistant high commissioner for India was held on the 15th of November 2021.



University Events

GeoWeek Web Launching

An event organized for launching the novel website for the GeoWeek programme was held on the 17th of November 2021 at the Vice-Chancellor's Office.



Stimulating Productivity



SDC Workshop

A workshop organized by the Staff Development Centre (SDC) of the university was held on the 23rd of November 2021 at the university premises. Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Aruna Shantha, Director, SDC steered the workshop which aimed the staff of the university.



A workshop organized by the Staff Development Center on productivity was held on the 06th of December 2021 at the university premises.

More Sponsorships

A meeting organized for receiving sponsorship from the Bank of Ceylon (BOC) for the events planned to be held at the Faculty of Management Studies and the Faculty of Geomatics was held on the 08th of December 2021. Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor, SUSL; Prof. W.K.A.C. Gnanapala, the Dean, Faculty of Management Studies; Mr. P.G.V. Abeyratne, the Dean, Faculty of Geomatics; and a few officials from BOC participated in this event.



University Events

Staff Induction Programme

The initiation event of the staff induction programme, organized by the Staff Development Center of the university was held on the 10th of December 2021 with the participation of Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor and some other distinguished invitees.



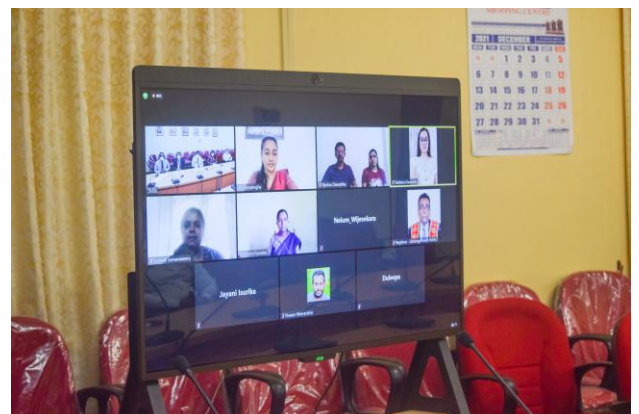
Food to Mind

A seminar conducted by the Senior Psychological Advisor, Ms. Ama Dissanayake was held on the 14th of December 2021 at the Prof. D. Somasundara Auditorium, SUSL.



An MoU with InnoLabs

Inno Labs (Pvt) Ltd. and the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka signed a memorandum of understanding with regard to an internship programme and research & development activities. The agreement was signed in December 2021.



Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

Assessment Criteria Development

A workshop on “Assessment Criteria Development”, organized under the AHEAD/ ELTAELSE- faculty grant was held on the 01st of August 2021 via Zoom online platform. Ms. Nimmi Galearachchi, a member of university Alumni and an LDP business advisor, Agronomy Focal, was the resource person of the workshop. The workshop targeted the third and fourth-year students of the Department of Agribusiness Management who are following the Venture Creation course module and the students of the Food Business Management degree programme.



Waste to Animal Feed

An introductory programme for the newly constructed aquaculture and aquatic breeding unit of the Department of Livestock Production was held on the 02nd of August 2021 with the participation of Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor; Mr. Saman Uyangoda, the Registrar; and Prof. Manjula P.S. Magamage, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Science along with the team members who are responsible for AHEAD RIC 6. This project is planned to be used for strengthening the teaching, research, and commercial fish breeding activities of the faculty under the guidance of Prof. C.N. Walpita.



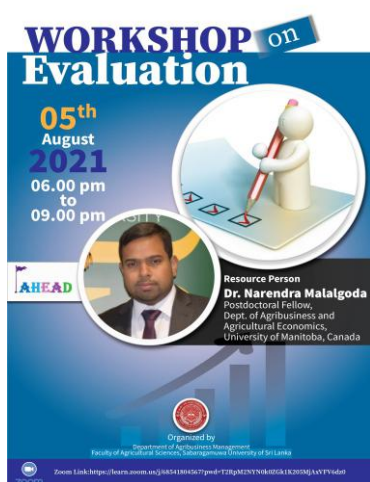
Academic Year - 2019/2020

The commencement of the new academic year of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences was held on the 02nd of August 2021 from 8.30 a.m. onwards. The initial programme was conducted virtually due to the pandemic situation in the country. Both the students and their parents were allowed to attend the meeting.



Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

A Workshop on Evaluation



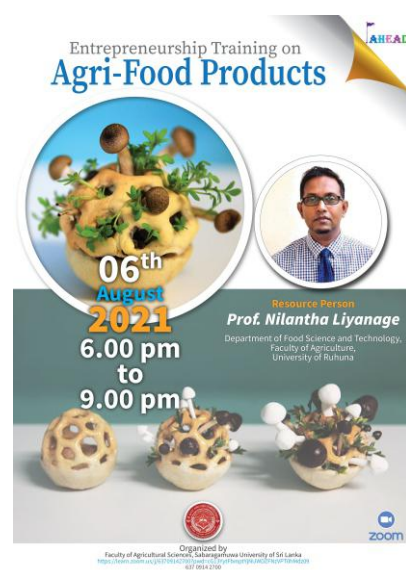
A workshop organized under the faculty grant of AHEAD/ ELTAELSE was held online on the 05th of August 2021 for the third and fourth-year students of the Department of Agribusiness Management and for the students of the Food Business Management degree programme. This workshop was conducted by Dr. Narendra Malalgoda, a post-doctoral fellow at the Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics, University of Manitoba, Canada. He is also a member of the university Alumni.

Entrepreneurship Training

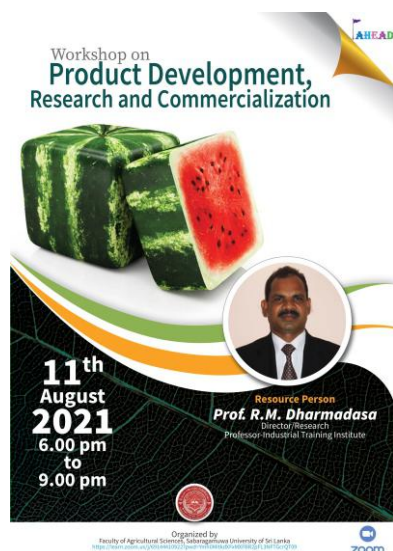
Entrepreneurship Training on “Agri-Food Products”, organized under the AHEAD/ELTAELSE- faculty grant was held online on the 06th of August 2021. The main objective of this workshop was to provide intensive entrepreneurship training aimed at helping undergraduates to put their idea into action while bringing an attitudinal change and building their

entrepreneurial skills. Prof. Nilantha Liyanage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna contributed to the event as the resource person.

His main focus was on identifying the latest trends in the food industry and educating the students on introducing suitable products into the market. This workshop targeted the third-year and fourth-year students of the Department of Agribusiness Management who are following the Venture Creation course module. In addition, the students who are following the Food Business Management degree programme also participated in the workshop.

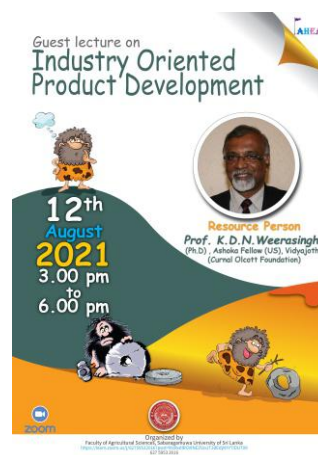


Product Development, Research, and Commercialization



Prof. R.M. Dharmadasa, the Director of the Herbal Technology Section of Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) conducted an online workshop on the 11th of August 2021 for the students of the Department of Agribusiness Management and for the students of the Food Business Management degree programme. This workshop was funded by the AHEAD/ ELTAELSE programme of the faculty.

Industry Oriented Product Development



A guest lecture on “Industry Oriented Product Development” organized under the AHEAD/ ELTAELSE- faculty grant took place on the 12th of August 2021. Prof. K.D.N. Weerasinghe, Professor Emeritus (University of Ruhuna) and Vice-Rector, International Tertiary Education Asia campus (INTECAsia) participated as the resource person of this event. Giving students a better understanding of the industry-oriented product development process was the major focal point of the workshop.

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences



Agri-Food Products

A workshop on “Agri-Food Products” was held on the 18th of August 2021 targeting the third and fourth-year students of the Department of Agribusiness management who are following the Venture Creation course module. Ms. Chalithra Dissanayake, Assistant Manager (Business Development), Lankem Ceylon PLC. conducted this online workshop specifically focusing on the benefits of entrepreneurship through her years of industry exposure and the experience she gained as an entrepreneur. The event was assisted by the faculty grant of the AHEAD/ ELTAELSE programme. The students who are following the Food Business Management degree programme were also among the participants.

Collaborating with Cargills

The Department of Agribusiness Management collaborating with the UBL Cell of SUSL entered into a product license agreement with Cargills Ceylon PLC to commercialize two Ceylon Cinnamon Beverages: “A Healthy Cinnamon Latte” and “A Cinnamon Leaf Tea”. This event was officially held on the 03rd of November 2021 at the Vice-Chancellor's office with the participation of Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor, representing the university and Mr. Imtiaz A. Wahid, Managing Director of Cargills Ceylon PLC. The gathering was enlightened by the Deans of the faculties, the Director and the team of UBL, the OTS director, and a team from the Cargills and the World Bank. This project is led by the coordinator Prof. Achini De Silva, and deputy coordinator Dr. R.K.C. Jeewanthi with the support of the research assistants.



Faculty of Applied Sciences

Food Safety

A webinar on “Key elements of food safety and hygiene controls in catering and hotel industry” conducted by Mr. Sahan Thejaka, Hygiene Manager, Hilton, Colombo was held online on the 06th of August 2021. Improving the awareness among the undergraduates and interested parties on food safety in the hotel industry was the main objective of the event; in addition to celebrating the World Food Safety Day. The guest speaker Mr. Thejaka is also an alumnus of the Department of Food Science and Technology of SUSL.

Orientation Programme 2019/2020

The students' orientation programme including an intensive English course was held online from August to November 2021. This programme included 10 sessions conducted on various orientation topics conducted by several resource persons, four departmental sessions, and 28 English sessions. The orientation programme concluded on the 16th of November 2021 with a successful online talent show namely, “Nilambara Ninnada” organized by the newcomers.

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Award-Winning Contribution

Prof. R. G. Udeni Jayalal and Dr. M. Sandun J. Perera of the Department of Natural Resources were awarded a special jury award at the 26th National Television Award Ceremony that was held on the 09th of September 2021.



The two SUSL staff members contributed as the key technical resource persons for the documentary television series titled "Asirimath Horton Thenna" directed by Mr. Poojitha Disaanayake for the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation. The same programme was awarded the Best Television Documentary Programme at the 25th Sumathi Awards held in early 2021.

NuForA'21

"Tetrad", "Golden flashes" and "Sabra Foodies", the three teams consisting of the students from the Department of Food Science and Technology secured the first, second, and fourth places respectively in the NuForA'21 organized by SEDS (Students for the Exploration and Development of Space), Open University of Sri Lanka in collaboration with SEDS Sri Lanka, in November 2021.



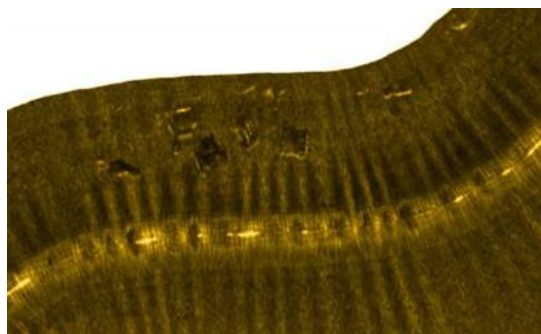
Mr. Binoj Ishara Batuwanthudawa of the Department of Computing and Information Systems was awarded the Gold Medal Award under University & Tertiary Educational Institutes Category / ICT category, at the "Sahasak Nimavum 2020 – National Inventions and Innovations Competition" organized by the National Inventors Commission and held on the 16th of December 2021. The award was offered for the invention: Real-time Location-based Augmented Reality Advertising Platform for Smart City. This study was supervised by Dr. K.P.N Jayasena, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computing & Information Systems.

National Innovations



Faculty of Geomatics

Assessment of Channel Clearance



The accident of the MV X-Press Pearl caused a massive threat to the safe operation of the Colombo Port. Due to this incident, many containers and debris might have fallen into the navigation channel and an urgent hydrographic survey was conducted in July 2021 to confirm the clearance for safe navigability. A detailed Side Scan Sonar (SSS) survey was conducted in the area by the Faculty of Geomatics with the collaboration of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and confirmed the channel clearance. This investigation team comprised of Dr. M.D.E.K. Gunathilaka, Mr. P.G.V. Abeyratne and Mr. A.N.D. Perera from the Faculty of Geomatics.

A workshop on GIS



In collaboration with SuperMap Software Co. Ltd., China, the Faculty of Geomatics organized its second virtual workshop for the professional GIS user community in Sri Lanka. The workshop was organized in parallel to the 08th International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and the opening ceremony of the workshop was held on the 19th of November 2021.

LBS2ITS Project

A discussion on LBS2ITS – Curricular Enrichment delivered through the Application of Location-based Services to Intelligent Transport Systems, co-founded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, was held on the 29th of November 2021. LBS2ITS intends to build a fully immersive and integrated LBS teaching and learning experience applied to smart transportation systems. The Faculty of Geomatics aims to have access to a smart classroom and physical resources like additional GNSS receivers with the assistance of LBS2ITS.

Trade Exhibition

LBS2ITS Project

- Prof. Guenther Retscher
TU Wien, Vienna Austria
The LBS2ITS Project - Enriching LBS Education in Geomatics and Transportation Sciences
- Prof. Georg Gartner
TU Wien, Vienna Austria
Location-based Services: Evolution and Development
- Prof. Vassilis Gikas
NTUA, Athens, Greece
Recent Developments on Emerging Positioning Technologies and GNSS Augmentations within the IAG as a Driver for ITS Applications
- Mr. Jagan Rajavarathan
FOG, SUST
Implementation of SDAS Augmented Hybrid Positioning Architecture for Android Mobile Devices
- Q&A and Panel Discussion with all speakers and Jeeana Gabeela, Harsh Bhanu, Thilantha Durrumuge

DATE | 29 November
Time | 13:00H
Meeting ID: 690 4558 5216
Passcode: #N77DU2

Sri Lanka's first virtual trade exhibition in Geospatial industry was held under GEOWEEK 2021, organized by the Faculty of Geomatics and lasted for five days starting from the 29th of November to the 03rd of December 2021. Having all professionals who are directly and indirectly involved in Geospatial science under one roof to showcase their latest products and technologies was the primary objective of this joint venture.

GeoTalk

“GeoTalk”, held on the 30th of November 2021, was one of the key events of GEOWEEK 2021 programme organized by the Faculty of Geomatics. This event opened a platform to share experience and knowledge of scholars and professionals. The session contained five plenary speeches and was followed by a panel discussion at the end of the session. There were five invited speakers who delivered their talks for 25-30 minutes on the concurrent topics in their specializations.



Technology and Surveying

“Technology and Surveying: Will the Surveyor Become Extinct?” was another discussion that was held on the 30th of November 2021, during GEOWEEK 2021. With the introduction of robotic instruments, UAVs, and other technologically advanced data collection methods, many feel that the profession 'surveyor' has become redundant. As the leading academic institution having access to these cutting-edge technologies, this event readily answered this question scientifically, without undue speculation.

Meeting Point

Under the main theme of GEOWEEK 2021, “The Meeting Point: We, Geospatial People” was held on the 01st of December 2021, in order to make a platform for the academia, industrial experts and students to share their knowledge and experiences about current trends, applications and new technologies in the field of Geo-spatial science and technology.

This event opened up a forum for everyone engaged in this versatile industry to gather under one umbrella to build strength and inter-collaborations.

Faculty of Management Studies

Webinar by Tourism Management

Mr. Nalin Wattegama, Technical Advisor of Lanka Responsible Care Council conducted an online workshop on "Safe Chemicals Handling & General Safety". The event was held on the 15th of July 2021.



Another webinar was held on the 29th of July 2021 with the topic: "Responsible Care and Workplace Safety". Mr. Barry Dyer, Responsible Care-New Zealand; Dr. Sampath Wahala, Chairman SLAB/ LRCC Committee member; Eng. Sena Peiris, President LRCC; and Mr. Eranga Dilhan, MAS Kreeda / LRCC Committee member participated as the resource persons of this event.



A webinar on "Chemical Waste Management" was held on the 26th of August 2021 with assistance of Mr. Tissa Gamage, Deputy Director, Central Environment Authority and Mr. Sanjeewa Chulakumara, Director, INSEE Ecocycle.



Prof. Malcolm Cooper, Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Mr. Sujith Yamasinghe, and Dr. Manoj Samarathunga conducted a webinar on "Inclusive tourism & Sri Lankan community". This webinar was held on the 27th of September 2021 via Zoom.

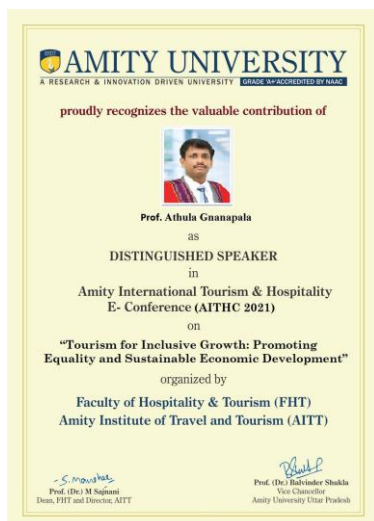


A webinar to share the theoretical and practical knowledge on sustainable reporting was held on the 11th of November 2021. Mr. Eranga Dilhan, General Manager, Sustainable Business@MAS KREEDA was the resource person of the event.

Guest Speaker



Prof. Athula Gnanapala was the distinguished speaker on "Tourism for Inclusive Growth: Promoting Equality and Sustainable Economic Development" in the Amity International Tourism and Hospitality E-conference (AITHC 2021) held on the 23rd and 24th of September 2021. This event was organized by the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, Amity Institute of Travel and Tourism.

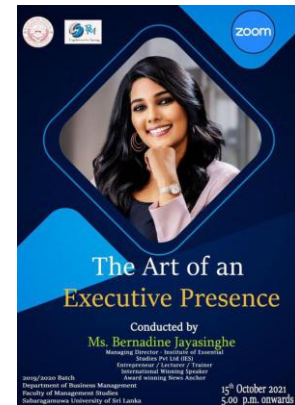
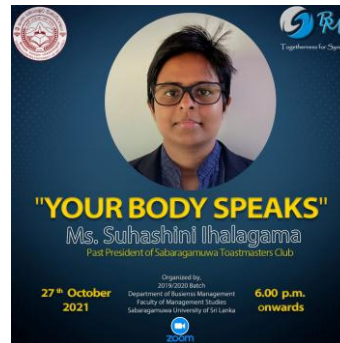


In addition, Prof. Gnanapala participated as the guest speaker of the webinar on "Way Forward" organized by the final year undergraduates of the Department of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya and in the seminar series titled: "Catch Your Right Path for a Better Future" organized by the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Jaffna. These two speeches were held on the 29th of September and 17th of November 2021 respectively.

Faculty of Management Studies

Presentation Skills

A webinar series organized by the Department of Business Management for the undergraduates to improve their presentation skills through practical exposure while making them familiar with the techniques related to verbal presentation was held from the 24th of September to 10th of November 2021 via Zoom. A pool of experts representing several external bodies assisted this webinar series.



Webinar Series: Accountancy & Finance



Mr. Prageeth Wanigasekara, Assistant Manager, Talent Engagement and Development, Brandix Apparel Ltd. conducted a webinar on "CV writing and interview skills". This online event was held on the 04th of October 2021 with a view to enhance the students' knowledge on the matters to be concerned in preparing a winning CV in addition to revealing the tips for facing an interview in an outstanding way.

Another webinar on "Grooming" conducted by Ms. Marissa Gnanapragasam, Manager-Human Resources, JAT Holdings Plc. was held on the 06th of October 2021 to enhance the undergraduates' knowledge on the matters that arisen in personal grooming.



Mr. Gayan Wickremeratne, Senior Manager-HR Business Partnering, Fortude conducted a webinar on "Workplace Ethics". The webinar was held on the 18th of October 2021 targeting the students of the Department of Accountancy & Finance.



A webinar on "Inevitable Customer Transformation post pandemic" organized to discussing the customer transformation and issues during a pandemic period was held on the 11th of October 2021 via Zoom platform. Mr. Sanath Senanayake, CEO/Executive Director, Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) steered the event.



Dr. R.S.S.W. Arachchi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Tourism Management, Faculty of Management Studies, SUSL conducted an online workshop on "Table Etiquette" to motivate the undergraduates to follow proper table etiquette. The event was held on the 13th of October 2021.

Faculty of Management Studies

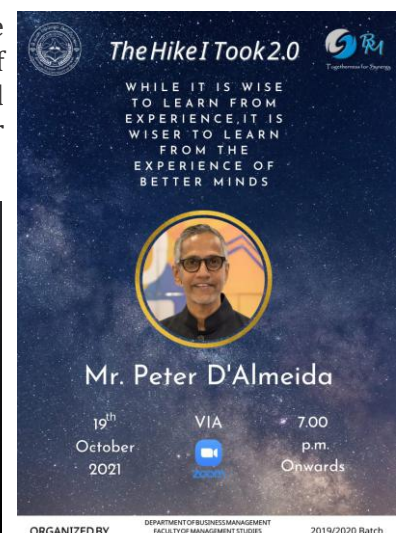


In addition to these, several webinars on various topics including “Data Mining”, “Telephone Conversations and Email Etiquette”, “Hotel Business Operations and Accounting Process”, “Technical Analysis”, “Investment Management”, “Payment Management System of Buying Office”, “Bank Operations”, “Insurance Operations”, “Agrahara Insurance”, “Investing in Share Market”, and “Unit Trust” were held from the 26th of October to 09th of December 2021. The webinar series was organized by the AHEAD project of the Department of Accountancy & Finance.

Meanwhile, a webinar on “Professional Development” which was organized to guide the undergraduates to take challenges and to rethink about future in an innovative way was held on the 22nd of October 2021. This webinar was conducted by Prof. Lakshman R. Watawala, the current president of CMA Sri Lanka.

The Hike I Took

The webinar series, “The Hike I Took 2.0” took place with a view to inspire undergraduates to reach their maximum potential through the shared life stories of successful professionals in multiple fields. This event started on the 07th of October and lasted until the 29th of October 2021. A number of speakers with successful career profiles contributed as resource persons of the event.



IUFRC 2021

The undergraduates of the finance stream participated in the First International Undergraduate Finance Research Conference organized by the Sri Lanka Finance Association on the 15th of October 2021. Encouraging undergraduates to present their research findings and subsequently motivate them to publish their research presented in the conference as proceedings was one of the major objectives of this event.



Mr. Ariyaseela Wickramanayake, Chairman, Pelwatte Dairy Industries Ltd. delivered the keynote address of the conference in addition to the guest speaker Miss. Sangeeta Menon who represented Emerald Publishing.

Faculty of Management Studies

An MoU with CMA



The Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka (CMA) signed an MoU with SUSL on the 25th of October 2021. Presenting a gold medal award to the best performing student of the faculty was among the topmost agreements of the MoU.



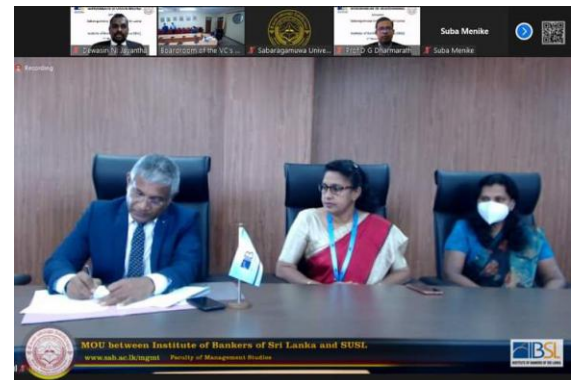
Further to this, offering scholarships and exemptions to undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies to follow the CMA professional programme were highlighted by the MoU. Prof. Lakshman R. Watawala, President of the CMA Sri Lanka; Prof. R.M.S.U.K. Rathnayake, Vice-Chancellor, SUSL; and Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies participated in this event.

An MoU with IBSL



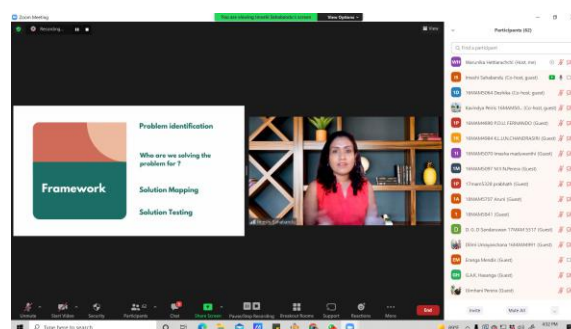
The university signed an MoU with the Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka (IBSL) with a view to receive exemptions, scholarships, and a “gold medal award” to the most outstanding student pursuing the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Banking and Insurance degree programme at the annual convocation of SUSL. This event took place on the 03rd of November 2021 with participation of Prof. R.M.U.S.K.

Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor, SUSL; Mr. C.P.A. Karunatilake, Director General IBSL; Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies; and Prof. D.G. Dharmarathne, Head, Department of Accountancy and Finance.



Creative Marketing

A series of webinars on “Creative Marketing” organized for the final year marketing management undergraduates was held from the 03rd of November to the 08th of December 2021. Familiarizing the students with the real practices of creativity in the marketing arena was the main intention of this event.



Annual Research Session 2021



11th Annual Research Session (ARS 2021) of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL) was held on the 21st of December 2021. This annual event provided a solid platform to disseminate innovative research findings of the academics, postgraduate students, and undergraduate students of the university. ARS 2021 was featured by a motivational keynote speech to fire the young minds on “How to become a successful researcher” by Prof. Dhammika Herath, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Prof. Herath is widely known in his field for the impact and innovative nature of his research contributions to peace and conflict, post-conflict reconciliation, religion and conflict, peace education, development, democracy, and governance. Due to the prevailing Covid 19 pandemic situation, the 11th Annual Research Session was held in virtual mode. Seven abstracts were presented at the event by the academic staff members of the university along with 21 and 24 abstracts by the postgraduates and undergraduates respectively.



Faculty of Management Studies

Green Talks



An online talk series including eight separate sessions were held from the 04th of November to 08th of December 2021 with a view to share knowledge on green management among the undergraduates. A number of expertise from the field contributed to make this event a successful one.



Moreover, this event prepared the participants to face day today environmental problems and motivated them to behave in an environmental friendly way.

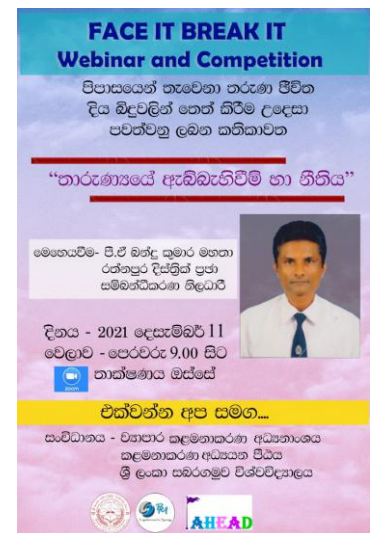
Workload Calculation

An awareness session on "Work Norm and Workload Calculation" for the academic staff of the Faculty of Management Studies was conducted by Prof. K.R. Koswattage, Head, Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology on the 05th of November 2021. The session was conducted successfully with the participation of all academic staff of the faculty. The template developed by the University for calculating workload was briefed and discussed while tabling suggestions for further improvements of the system.

More Webinars



Ms. Sithiji Kawishma Amaraseena, TV Speaker, Charana TV conducted a webinar titled "Raise Your Voice" to build the confidence of speaking of undergraduates through identifying their issues in speaking and presenting skills. The webinar was held on the 20th of November 2021 via Zoom.



"Battle of Witz", an online entertainment, team bonding and sweepstake event organized by the Department of Business Management was held on the 26th of November 2021.



A virtual short story composing competition entitled "Face It - Break It 2021" was held from the 18th of November to 23rd of December 2021. This short story composing competition aimed to assist the undergraduates to develop their creative writing skills along with the academic writing ability.

Faculty of Management Studies

English Camp

An online English camp organized by the AHEAD project of the Department of Accountancy & Finance was held on the 23rd and 26th of November 2021 targeting the second and third year undergraduates of the Department of Accountancy & Finance. In addition to the students, the academics of the department also participated in the workshop. The English camp basically aimed to enhance the English language skills of the participants. Mr. K. Sivayesunesan, Former Lecturer, SUSL contributed as the resource person of the workshop.



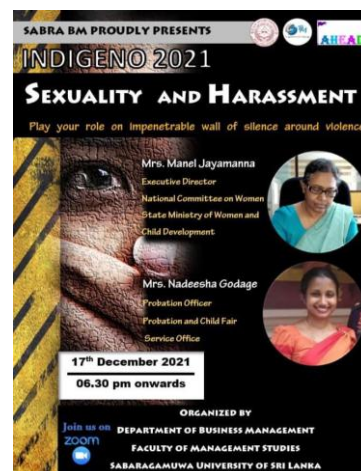
Webinar Series: Disaster Management

A webinar series organized for improving the existing knowledge of the undergraduates on disaster management was held from the 04th to 29th of December 2021. This online series discussed a number of topics including “Proactive Approach for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sri Lanka”, “Expect the Unexpected”, “Be an Ocean Guardian”, and “Disaster Risk Reduction” and “Management in Agriculture”. Sharing theoretical knowledge and practical exposures about disaster risk reduction and management was among the main objectives of the webinar series in addition to knowing the proactive approaches for disaster and risk reduction from the practical experiences of the practitioners.



INDIGENO 2021

A webinar series organized for the third year undergraduates of the Department of Business Management was held from the 07th to 21st of December 2021 via Zoom platform. Familiarizing the undergraduates with the Sri Lankan cultural practices and encouraging them to carry these practices towards the future generations were the objectives of the event.



The lecture series also supported to pursue the topic: “indigenous management studies” that comes under their curriculum. A number of resource persons representing different organizations contributed to the success of the event.

Faculty of Management Studies

ICMR 2021

The sixth Interdisciplinary Conference of Management Researchers (ICMR) 2021 organized by the Faculty of Management Studies in collaboration with Emerald Publishing was held on the 16th and 17th of December 2021 to provide a platform in Sri Lanka for local and international researchers and academics to disseminate their research findings. Researchers, postgraduate students, and academics from interdisciplinary fields contributed to the event. The conference aimed to explore global alliance to enhance the quality and strength of the interdisciplinary research of the management scholars while strengthening the network among young researchers with local and foreign management experts.



Encouraging multidisciplinary dialogues between researchers and practitioners in conjunction with different research findings and implications was one of the other significant topics addressed by the event. Prof. Philip Kotler, distinguished Professor of International Marketing at the Kellogg School of Management; Prof. A. Parasuraman, Professor Emeritus, University of Miami; Prof. H. Kent Baker, Chair of the Department of Finance at the American University; Prof. Hartwig Bohne, Dresden School of Management; Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, the Vice-Chancellor, SUSL; and Prof. Athula Gnanapala, the Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, SUSL were among the distinguished participants of the conference.

An MoU with CIPM

The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management Sri Lanka (CIPM) and the Faculty of Management Studies signed an MoU between the two parties. The prime purpose of signing this MoU was to promote and develop the principles, techniques, and practices of human resource management to optimize the utilization of human resource at the national and international levels. Furthermore, the MoU ensures the acceptance of prior learning recognition /exemption plan for students from both institutes and collaborative research work relating to human resource management to contribute to the national development. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ken Vijayakumar, Vice-President of CIPM and Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, Vice-Chancellor, SUSL.



To glorify the ceremony, high level dignitaries of CIPM including Mr. Jayantha Amarasinghe, President CIPM; Dr. Neil Bogahalande, Councilmember; Mr. U.A.C. Obeysekere, Director-Business School; Mr. G. Weerathunge, Director-Professional & Academic Affairs presented virtually. The momentous signing ceremony was held in the virtual presence of Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies and Mr. Achintha Ekanayake, Head, Department of Business Management.



Faculty of Medicine

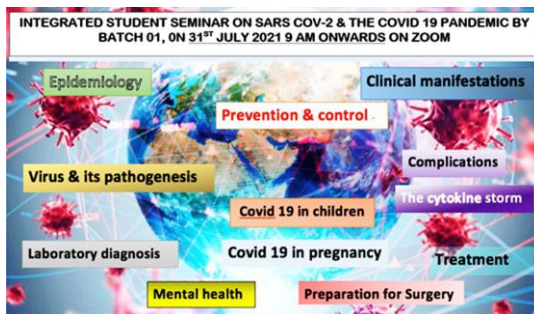
Rotaract Club



The preliminary meeting of the Rotaract Club of the Faculty of Medicine was held on the 07th of July 2021 with the participation of the dean of the Faculty of Medicine, academic staff members and the students of all batches. The objective of each avenue of the club and the

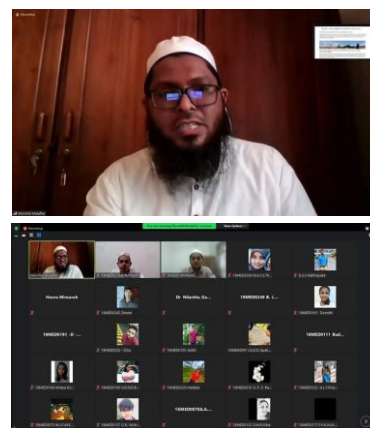
appointed director for the year 2021-2022 for each avenue was introduced at the inaugural meeting. The occasion was graced with the presence of the Rotarian Charles M. Ravie, the President of the Rotary Club of Gem City Ratnapura.

Integrated Student Seminar on COVID-19



A seminar to educate the academic staff and the medical students on the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic was held online on the 31st of July 2021. This seminar highlighted the epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical presentation, management, and complications of the pandemic.

Hajji Celebration



The Religious Society of the Faculty of Medicine organized a Hajji celebration programme on the 31st of July 2021. The programme was a talk on "Islam and Co-existence" and was successfully held via Zoom with the participation of the dean of the Faculty of Medicine, academic and non-

academic staff members, and the students. The programme was conducted by Maulavi Ash Shaik M.M.M. Murshid.

You Are Not Alone

An online programme organized by the Rotaract Club of the Faculty of Medicine, SUSL in collaboration with the Rotaract club of Wayamba University and the Rotaract club of Ratnapura was held virtually in September 2021. The event aimed to improve the mental health for those who need medical guidance.



The phase I of the programme was held with the participation of several public figures on the 20th of September 2021. The phase II was held on the 23rd of September with the participation of a consultant psychiatrist of the teaching hospital of Ratnapura. An open discussion and a counseling session were conducted during phase III with the assistance of Dr. Vajira Dharmawardane and Dr. Medhani Hewagama.

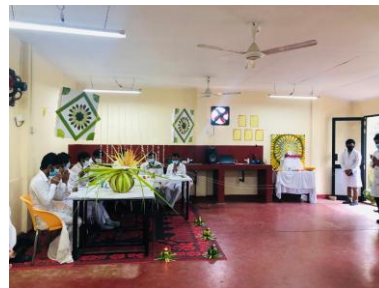
Faculty of Medicine

Sarasavi Gama Health Promotion

The inauguration ceremony of the clerkship, primary care, and family medicine along with the Sarasavi Gama health promotion programme was held on the 09th of November 2021 at the auditorium of the office of provincial director of health services, Sabaragamuwa. The programme was assisted by the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine. The selected families from two MOH divisions are aimed to undergo regular follow-ups on nutritional issues, healthy lifestyle, mental health, domestic violence, occupational health issues, and so on.



Pirith Chanting

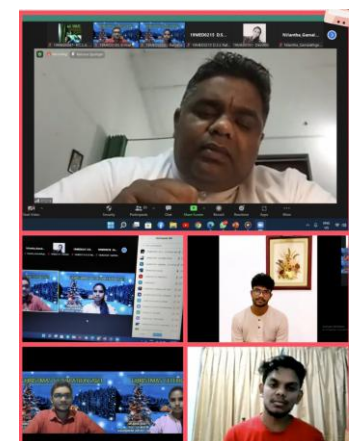


A gihi pirith chanting ceremony along with Catholic and Islamic prayers was organized by the undergraduates of the Faculty of Medicine on the 17th of November 2021 at the dissection hall. This ceremony aimed to show the gratitude towards the compassionate hearts who donated their cadavers to aid the medical students of the faculty.

Christmas Programme

Feelings

The Aesthetic Society of the Faculty of Medicine organized a programme named, “Feelings – A review of the creative arts of aestheticism” to provide a platform to the students to exhibit and develop their creative skills as a method of obtaining mental relaxation amidst the educational hardships of the MBBS programme. Mr. Chaminda Kumara Kankanamge, a professional music director was welcomed as the guest speaker of the event. This was held on the 08th of December 2021 at the auditorium of the Foreign Employment Bureau, Ratnapura.



The Religious Society of the Faculty of Medicine organized a programme to celebrate the Christmas 2021. The programme was conducted by Rev.Fr. Prasad Harshan, Director, Priestly Vocation & Formation, Archdiocese of Colombo under the theme: “Religious Unity”.

Faculty of Medicine

Medywood Film Festival

The academic staff of the Department of Anatomy organized a film festival to enhance the knowledge of the undergraduates on inherited diseases. Awards for the best film, best story, best editor, best actor, and best actress were bestowed at the end of the session, in addition to four special talent awards.



Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

Getting Ready for Future

A series of stakeholder orientation programmes were held on 24th July, 10th October, and 17th October 2021 to enhance the knowledge of undergraduates on future trends of the job market in the private and public sectors of Sri Lanka and in other countries. A number of resource persons representing the private and government sectors assisted this event.



Web Launching

The launching ceremony of the “Sri Lanka Journal of Economics, Statistics and Information Management” website took place on the 24th of August 2021. This international, open-access, peer-reviewed, triennial journal published by the Department of Economics and Statistics provides academics, researchers, and professionals with a platform to share the latest developments and advances in Economics, Statistics, and Information Management.



Inauguration of Academic Programme

The orientation programme for the new academic intake (2019/2020) of the Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages commenced on the 28th of September 2021. This programme aimed at orienting new entrants for their university life while developing their skills and capabilities. Three hundred and fifty students have been admitted to the faculty under this new intake.



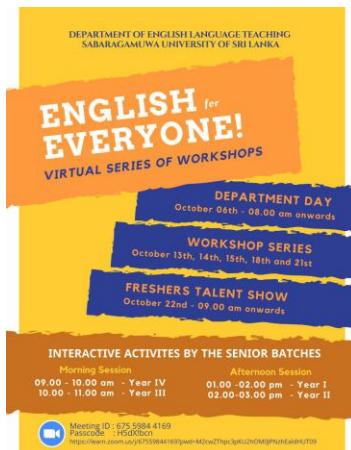
Introductory Programme

The introductory programme organized for the newcomers to the Department of Economics and Statistics was held on the 05th of October 2021 via Zoom. The courses and services offered by the department were introduced to the new students by Dr. R.A.H.M. Rupasinghe, Head of the Department of Economics and Statistics. The members of the academic staff participated in the event to give a comprehensive understanding of the



Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

English for Everyone

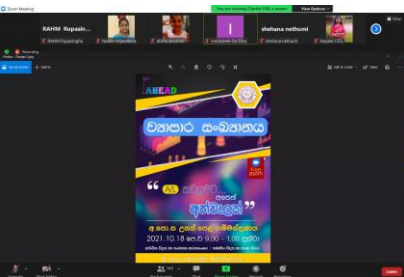


A series of workshops, organized by the Department of English Language Teaching under the orientation programme of the faculty was held from the 06th to 22nd of October 2021 via Zoom. The English language lecturers representing a number of universities participated as the resource persons of this event and conducted their talks on a variety of topics. Introducing the department, the staff members, courses, and other services offered was among the major components of the workshop series. This workshop series was concluded with a colorful talent show presented by the newcomers.

Advanced Level Seminar

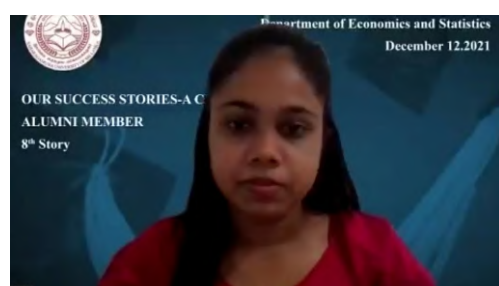


A seminar programme organized by the undergraduates of the Department of Economics and Statistics, under the AHEAD project was held on the 14th, 24th, and 30th of October 2021 to discuss model papers and subject matters with the students. This programme enabled the students who are sitting for the advanced level examination to gain knowledge in the relevant subjects while allowing the undergraduates to improve their presentation skills, group spirit through teamwork, and to solve problems in critical situations.



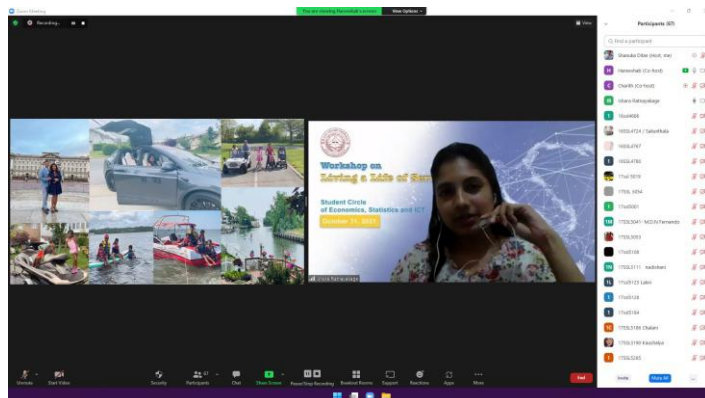
Stories of Alumni

Mr. Chinthaka Lakshan, Software Engineer, iLabs participated in the discussion held on the 19th of October 2021 under the discussion series on “Our success stories - A chat with an Alumni member- Alumni Association of the Department of Economics and Statistics”. Meanwhile, Mr. M. Udara De Zoysa, Senior Sales Manager, Sierra Cables Plc. and Mrs. Nadeeka Gunawardhana, Senior Regional Manager (North-Western and Western Region), LOLC Development Finance participated as the resource persons for the following events of the discussion series held on the 16th of November and the 14th of December 2021. Improving the relationship among the graduates of the department while providing an opportunity for the undergraduates to learn from the experiences of the alumni members were the major aims of this event.



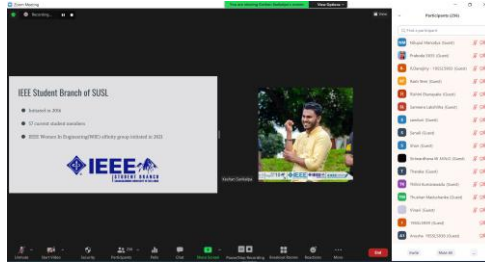
Living a Life of Service

A workshop organized by the Students Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics with a view of providing an opportunity for the undergraduates to learn to build up a strong personality, skills, and attitudes for a happy and well-balanced life was held on the 04th of November 2021 via Zoom platform. Mr. Hareesha Boyagodage, the President of H&B Premier Tax and Accounting, contributed to this event by participating as the resource person.



Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

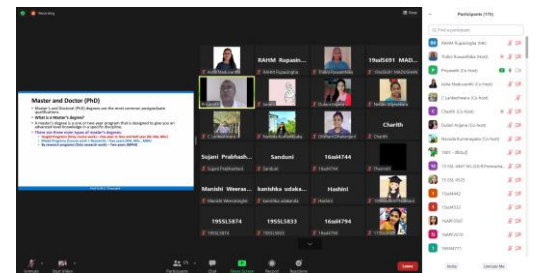
IEEE/IEEE WIE Awareness



Ms. Keshan Sankalpa, Vice Chairperson of IEEE Student Branch of SUSL and Ms. Dasuni Jayathilake, Secretary of IEEE, Women in Engineering, Student Branch, Affinity Group of SUSL conducted an awareness programme on the 06th of November 2021 for all IT students of the university. This event basically aimed to assist the upgrading procedure of the membership of the IEEE/IEEE WIE branch of SUSL.

Directions to Higher Education

A workshop on “New Horizons for Higher Education” organized by the Students Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics, under the AHEAD project was held on the 07th of November 2021 to improve awareness of the undergraduates regarding higher education. The workshop was conducted by Prof. H. M. S. Priyanath, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, SUSL.



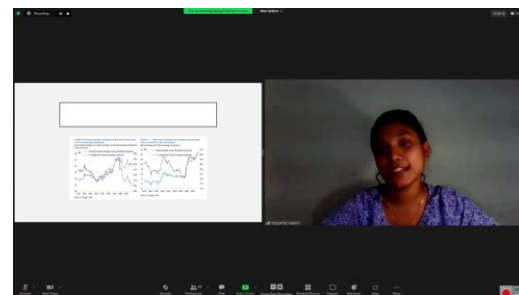
Language Teaching and Assessment

A pre-conference workshop on “Online Interactive English Language Teaching and Assessment” was conducted as a part of the series of pre-conference workshops of the 08th International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. This event was organized by the Department of Languages in collaboration with the US Embassy and held on the 17th of November 2021. The English language specialist, Ms. Heather Gaddis conducted the workshop with a view to enhancing the English language competencies of the lecturers; in addition to bachelor's and master's degree students of the university.



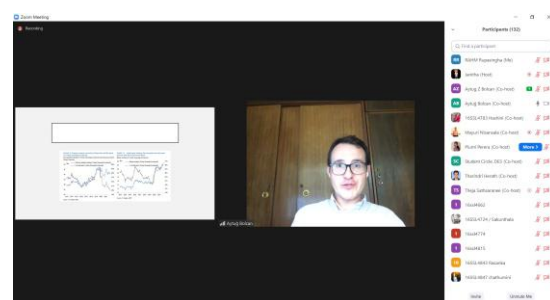
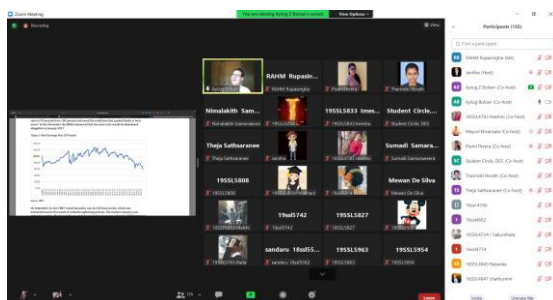
Silver Portal

The two episodes: “Stepping stones to data collection via Google forms” and “Grow with Google”, organized under the “Silver Portal” programme were held on the 20th of November and the 05th of December 2021 respectively with a view of improving the latest technological awareness of the undergraduates of Economics, Statistics, and ICT.



Let's Meet a Foreign Expert

The first and second episodes of the programme “Let's Meet a Foreign Expert”, organized by the Students Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics were held on the 28th of November and the 18th of December 2021 respectively. Providing an opportunity for the undergraduates to get exposed to different disciplines to know different academic contexts by sharing their experiences on global issues with foreign experts was the major target of this event.



Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

Signing an MoU

The Department of Economics and Statistics signed an MoU with InnoLabs (Pvt) Ltd. on the 15th of December 2021. The primary aim of the MoU was to improve the collaborative research between the two parties. In addition, expanding opportunities for the undergraduates to have the industry experience, participate in training programmes, and receive support for field visits were the other significant achievements of the programme.



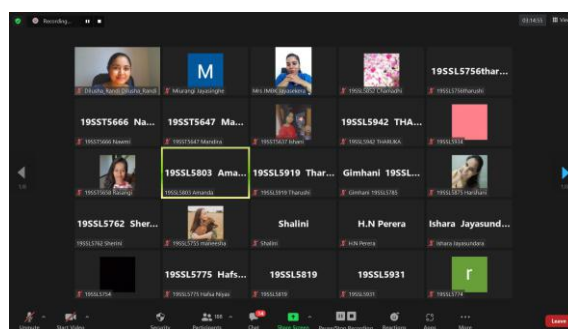
China- Sri Lanka Communication and Cooperation Forum

The China-Sri Lanka Communication and Cooperation Forum is an annual research session organized by the Research Center for China-Sri Lanka Culture Exchange and Economic Development established at Huanggang Normal University. The Sabaragamuwa University and Huanggang Normal University take turns in hosting the event each year and the second event of this was hosted by SUSL on the 01st of December 2021 in parallel to the International Conference of SUSL. The primary objective of this forum is to make a platform for researchers in the two countries to exchange their research findings in economics, culture, and languages to strengthen the bilateral cooperation between China and Sri Lanka.

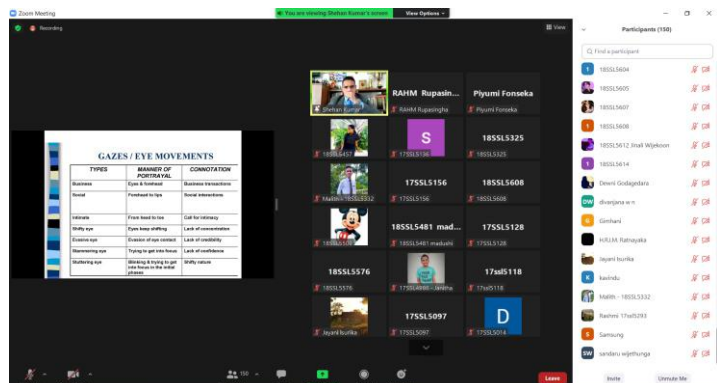


Language Camp 2021

A virtual language camp, conducted by Ms. J.M.B.K. Jayasekara from the Department of English Language Teaching, University of Peradeniya was held on the 28th of December 2021 to enhance the English speaking skills of the students.



Business Communication



Mr. Shehan Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Information Technology, Sri Lanka conducted an online workshop on “Improving Business Communication Skills in English” for the third-year, first semester students of the Department of Economics and Statistics. The workshop was organized by the Students Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics under the AHEAD Project of the department and held on the 29th of December 2021. Adopting and preparing students for the world of work in both public and private sectors, by improving their skills in business communication was among the primary aims of the programme.

Faculty of Technology

Intellectual Property



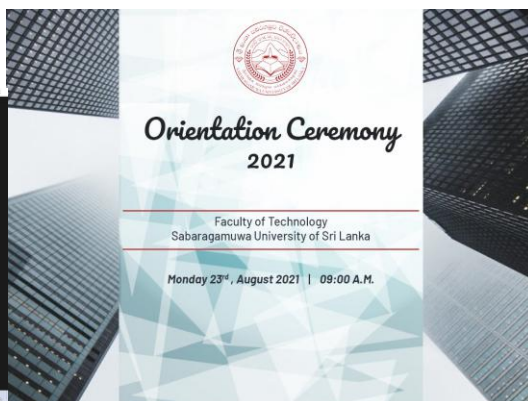
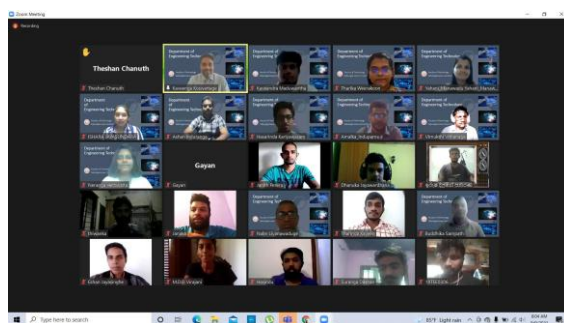
A webinar on "Intellectual Property Protection and Management" was held on the 17th of July 2021 for the academic staff of the Faculty of Technology. The programme was organized by the University Business Linkage Cell. Prof. D.A.I. Dayaratne, Director, University Business Linkage Cell conducted the session while participating as the resource person. The primary focus of the programme was to create an awareness of intellectual property protection and management among the members of the Faculty of Technology.

Workshop Technologies

An online workshop on "Next-generation equipment for workshop technologies" was held on the 18th of August 2021 to enhance and upgrade the knowledge of the academics on the novel approaches in workshop technologies. This workshop was organized by the Quality Assurance Unit of the Faculty of Technology and conducted by Mr. Janaka Mangala from the University of Moratuwa.

Third Student Intake

The orientation programme for the third student intake of the Faculty of Technology was held online on the 23rd of August 2021. The new intake included 250 students dispersing 125 students each for the Department of Biosystems Technology and the Department of Engineering Technology. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake enlightened the occasion as the Chief Guest while all the academic and non-academic staff members of the faculty participated in the occasion.



Laboratory Design

A workshop on "Sharing Experience on Successful Laboratory Design" was organized by the Quality Assurance Unit of the Faculty of Technology. The workshop was held for all the academic members of the faculty on the 25th of August 2021, via the Zoom platform. The purpose of the workshop was to disseminate the experience and educate the faculty members on executing a successful laboratory design. The programme was conducted by Mr. Abinaiyan Ilango, Product Specialist, Hemsons International (Pvt) Ltd.

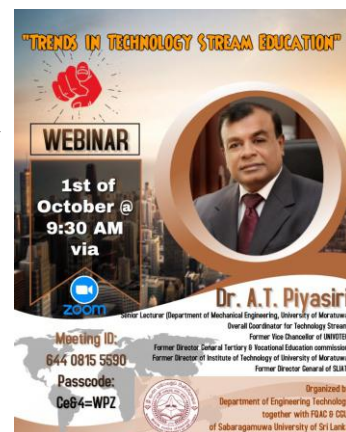
Procurement Process

A workshop on "The Procurement Process – STHRD Project", organized by the Quality Assurance Unit of the Faculty of Technology was assisted by Mr. L. Niransankumar, Senior Procurement Officer, STHRD project, participating as the resource person. The workshop was conducted on the 30th of August 2021 for all academic staff of the faculty aiming to guide and educate the academic staff on the procurement process of the STHRD project.

Technology Education

The Department of Engineering Technology collaborating with the Faculty Quality Assurance Cell and Career Guidance Unit organized a webinar entitled "Trends in Technology Stream Education" on the 01st of October 2021.

Dr. A.T. Piyasiri, Overall Coordinator for Technology Stream, Sri Lanka; Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa, participated in the workshop representing the resource person. The primary objective of the event was to enlighten the students and the academics on the current course of technology education in Sri Lanka and to address their concerns and queries.



Faculty of Technology

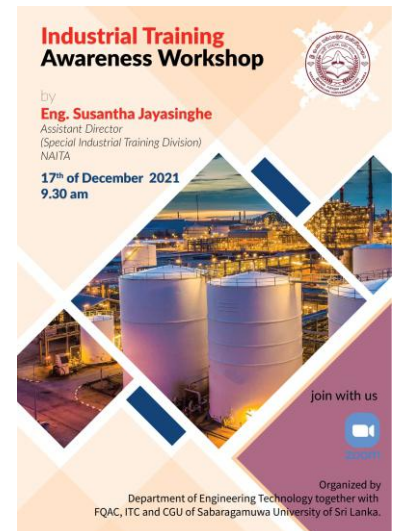
Industrial Webinars

A series of Industrial Webinars was organized by the Department of Engineering Technology in collaboration with the Faculty Quality Assurance Cell and the Carrier Guidance Unit on the 26th of October, 15th and 23rd of November 2021. The programme aimed to educate the students on the Industrial setting in Sri Lanka and to prepare the students for their prospective industrial training period. Eng. Gayal Rangajeewa, Plant Manager, Ceylon Graphene; Mr. Sanjeewa Kumarasekara, General Manager, Production, Alumex PLC participated as the resource persons of the webinar series.



Improving Awareness

An online workshop entitled “Industrial Training Awareness”, organized by the Department of Engineering Technology was held on the 17th of December 2021. The programme intended to instruct and educate the prospective industrial training students of the Department of Engineering Technology on the industrial setting and the training procedures. Eng. Susantha Jayasinghe, Assistant Director, Special Training Division, NAITA conducted this workshop.



Staff Achievements

NRC Awards

Dr. L. V. Ranaweera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Natural Resources, Faculty of Applied Sciences received NRC Merit Award for Scientific Research from the National Research Council, Sri Lanka on the 02nd of August 2021 for his scientific research published in 2018. The article entitled, *Circa 1 Ga sub-seafloor hydrothermal alteration imprinted on the Horoman peridotite massif* was published in Scientific Reports, Vol.8 (9887).



Dr. P.K.C.M. Wijewickrema, Senior Assistant Librarian received NRC Merit Award for Scientific Research from the National Research Council, Sri Lanka on the 02nd of August 2021 for his scientific research published in 2018. The article entitled, *Relationship between journal-ranking metrics for a multi-disciplinary set of journals* was published in portal: Libraries and the Academy, Vol. 18 (1).



Staff Achievements

Master's Degree Completion

Mrs. M. Vithiyalani, Lecturer (Prob.), Department of Accountancy and Finance completed her M.Sc. in Applied Finance at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.



Miss. A.W. Thiranagama, Lecturer (Prob.), Department of Business Management completed her M.Sc. in Management at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.



Miss. I. M. Katuwandeniya, Lecturer (Prob.), Department of Business Management completed her M.Sc. in Management at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.



Ms. P.L.G.S.D. Piumali, Lecturer (Prob.), Department of Marketing Management completed her Master of Business Administration in Marketing at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Student Achievements

1st Runner-Up

The team “Eco Guarder” from the 2017/2018 Batch of the Department of Food Science and Technology of the Faculty of Applied Sciences won the first runner-up award at the “Food Techthon 2021 Competition”, organized by the Society of Food Science and Technology, University of Peradeniya, in July 2021.



Student Ambassador

Unilever SPARKS student ambassador programme is an ambassadorship opportunity for undergraduates to act as liaisons between Unilever Sri Lanka and their university. Isuru Thisara Muthupathirana, a third-year undergraduate of the Department of Business Management was selected as the very first SPARK of SUSL.

New Appointments

Prof. P.M. Asha S. Karunaratne, Professor, Department of Export Agriculture, has been appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences with effect from the 05th of October 2021.



Dr. A.W.S. Chandana has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education.



Mr. I.A. Ekanayake has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Business Management.



Dr. Upul Lekamge has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Social Sciences.



Prof. S.K. Gunathilake has been appointed as the Director of the OTS office.



Associate Prof. Zhu Song has been appointed as the director of the Confucius Classroom at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka with effect from the 19th of November 2021.



Associate Prof. Liu Hai has been appointed as a Lecturer in Chinese at the Department of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages.



Dr. M.D. Kasundi Mekhala Gunasena has been appointed as a Lecturer (unconfirmed) at the Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology.



Promotions

Dr. G.D.K. Kumara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Export Agriculture, was promoted to the post of Professor.



Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, Professor, Department of Food Science & Technology, was promoted to the post of Senior Professor.



Dr. E.P. Kudavidanage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Natural Resources, was promoted to the post of Professor.



Dr. H.R.S. Bandara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Surveying & Geodesy, was promoted to the post of Associate Professor.



Dr. L.M.C.S. Menike, Senior Lecturer, Department of Accountancy & Finance, was promoted to the post of Professor.



Dr. Iraj Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Tourism Management, was promoted to the post of Professor.



Mr. R.A.C. Ushantha, Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing Management, was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade I.



Advisor

Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake
The Vice Chancellor
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

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Director,
Center for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD).

Deans, Heads of the Departments, Directors, all Academics & Administrative staff members and students are greatly appreciated for providing the information and pictures for this newsletter.

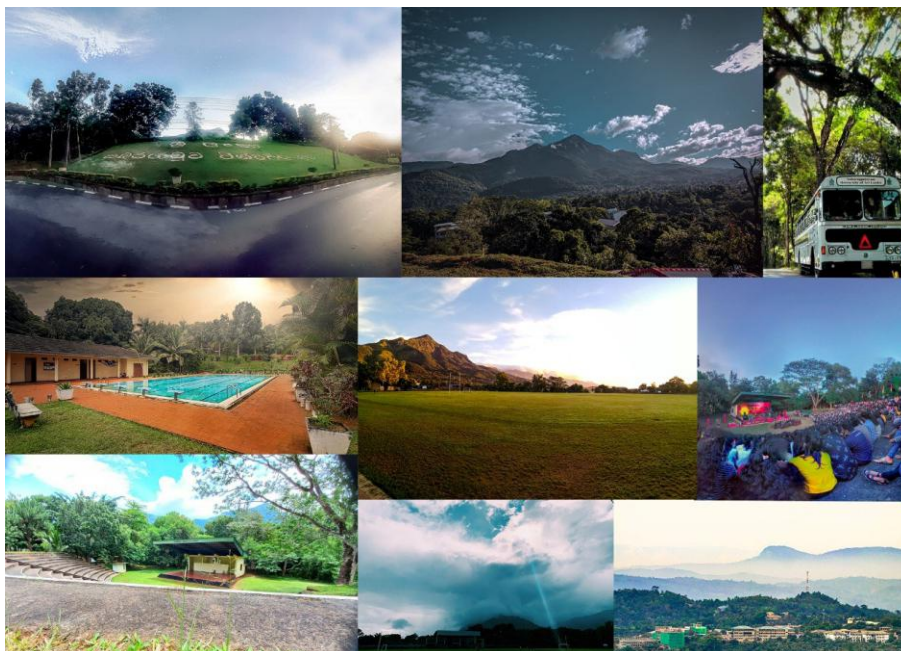
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Please send us your news to Editor of the Newsletter, Center for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD)

Email: newsletter@crkd.sab.ac.lk

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Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka will celebrate its 26 years of excellence on the propitious day of 02nd February 2022 at the university premises with the presence of the university community along with invited guests. The University Day event will run with the sessions of awarding the outstanding staff under different categories. This ceremony will further award the best student from each faculty who proved their ability in the academic field.



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