

# NEWSLETTER SUSL

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

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## ICARC 2025

The Faculty of Computing successfully concluded the 05<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing, held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Centered on the theme “Converging Horizons: Uniting Disciplines in Computing Research through AI Innovation,” the conference brought together a vibrant community of researchers, academics, students, industry professionals, and policymakers, fostering a dynamic environment for the exchange of cutting-edge ideas and knowledge. The conference featured a diverse range of tracks covering key areas in contemporary computing, ensuring broad engagement with emerging research trends. Pre-conference workshops, tutorials, and panel discussions provided valuable opportunities for learning, collaboration, and professional networking. A special guest lecture titled “Machine Learning Across Disciplines: Some Examples from Language, Vision, Biology and Health” was delivered by Prof. Mahesan Niranjan from the University of Southampton, United Kingdom. In addition, Dr. Grace A. Lewis, IEEE Computer Society President-Elect (2025), and Ms. Mary Ellen Randall, IEEE Fellow and 2025 IEEE President-Elect, joined the event virtually, sharing valuable insights and perspectives with participants.



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# University Events

## Year Begins with Blessings

The university organized a ceremony to inaugurate the New Year 2025 on 01<sup>st</sup> January 2025, invoking blessings for the staff and students. The event marked a symbolic beginning to the year, fostering a sense of unity, positivity, and renewed commitment among the university community. It also provided an opportunity for reflection, inspiration, and setting collective aspirations for the year ahead.



## Dialogue for Progress

A discussion was held in February 2025 at the Vice Chancellor's Office of the university with the Hon. Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Madhura Senevirathna, and officials of the University Grants Commission. The meeting brought together representatives of both students and staff to deliberate on key issues and the current status of the university.



The discussion provided an important platform for constructive dialogue, enabling participants to address challenges, share perspectives, and explore strategies for the continued development and improvement of the university.



# University Events

## Industry Partnerships



A Licensing Agreement Signing Ceremony between Food and Nature (Pvt) Ltd (FADNA) and Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was held in February 2025 with the aim of strengthening collaboration between the two parties. The agreement is expected to promote cooperation in areas such as research, innovation, knowledge sharing, and industry engagement, while creating new opportunities for academic and professional development.

### The Art of Referencing

The Library Quality Assurance Cell (LQAC) organized a hands-on training session titled “Mastering Reference Management” on 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at the Faculty IT Laboratory for undergraduates of the Department of Agribusiness Management. The session aimed to enhance students’ skills in managing academic references and utilizing reference management tools effectively in research and scholarly writing. Mr. I.D. Kusala Fernando, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Mrs. Thrishala Warnasooriya, Assistant Librarian, contributed as resource persons for the programme.



### Welcoming Mahanayaka Thero



A ceremonial event to welcome the Mahanayaka Thero of the Amarapura Chapter, Most Venerable Karagoda Uyangoda Maithrimurthi Thero, was held at Sabaragamuwa University on 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2025. The occasion was attended by university officials, academic and non-academic staff members, and invited guests, reflecting the university’s respect for religious and cultural values.



# University Events

This event provided an opportunity for the university community to receive blessings and spiritual guidance from the Most Venerable Thero, fostering a sense of unity, harmony, and moral inspiration within the institution.



## Stories Beyond Pages

The 08<sup>th</sup> Human Library Event organized by the Main Library was successfully held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Geomatics. The event featured renowned artist and filmmaker Dr. Somaratne Dissanayake as the “Human Book,” offering participants an engaging and inspiring account of his personal and professional journey. This event was attended by the Vice Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, the Librarian and library staff, directors of centres, administrative and non-academic staff members, other university delegates, as well as invited schoolchildren and teachers from the Balangoda Educational Zone.





# University Events

Participants had the opportunity to interact directly with the speaker and gain valuable insights from his experiences and creative contributions. Adding further value to the programme, Dr. Somaratne Dissanayake generously arranged a free screening of his film Kaputu Koho. This thoughtful contribution enriched the event experience and introduced a meaningful cultural dimension to the Human Library programme.



## Digital Gateway to ICSUSL 2025

The official website launch of ICSUSL 2025, hosted by Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, was held on 02<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 at the Vice Chancellor's Office. The ceremony was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Sunil Shantha, together with the Deans of all faculties, the Librarian, members of the organizing committee, and other distinguished guests. The event marked an important milestone in the preparation for ICSUSL 2025, providing a dedicated digital platform to share conference information, research updates, and engagement opportunities with the wider academic community. The launch also reflected the university's continued commitment to promoting research dissemination and academic collaboration.





# University Events

## General Convocation

The 26<sup>th</sup> General Convocation was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the university premises, marking a significant milestone in its academic journey. A key highlight of this year's convocation was the graduation of the first-ever batch of medical doctors, with 65 students from the Faculty of Medicine being awarded the MBBS degree. This landmark achievement underscores the university's growing contribution to the national healthcare sector.



The ceremony was graced by Prof. Emeritus Mohan de Silva, Consultant Surgeon and former Chairman of the University Grants Commission, who attended as the Chief Guest and delivered an inspiring address. Prof. S.P. Lamabadusooriya, Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics and former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, served as the Guest of Honour. The event celebrated academic excellence and the successful culmination of years of dedication and hard work by the graduates.





# Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

## AgSURS–2025

The Agricultural Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium 2025, held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, was organized under the theme “Empowering Research for Innovative Agriculture.”

The event brought together undergraduate researchers from diverse agricultural disciplines, offering both scientific and industry-oriented forums for discussion. Participants presented their final-year research projects across several thematic areas, including Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Livestock Production, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Food Processing and Safety, and Agriculture and Agri-environment.



A key highlight of the symposium was the keynote address delivered by Prof. B.M.L.D.B. Suriyagoda from the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. His presentation, titled “Importance of Research Exposure to Undergraduates,” emphasized the value of early research engagement in shaping future professionals and innovators in agriculture. Chaired by Prof. Ruvini K. Mutucumarana, AgSURS–2025 successfully created a dynamic and inspiring environment that celebrated undergraduate research, encouraged innovation, and strengthened the foundation for future advancements in the agricultural sector.





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## SUSL–FADNA Licensing Agreement

Members of the academic staff, including Dr. Namal Perera, Dr. Thilini Kananke, Prof. R.M.K.T. Rathnayaka, and the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. E.P.N. Udayakumara, participated in the signing of the licensing agreement between SUSL and FADNA on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025.



## Leveraging AI in Education

The Faculty Web Development Committee conducted a workshop for academic staff members on “Leveraging AI for Education” on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The session focused on introducing practical applications of artificial intelligence in teaching, learning, and research, with an emphasis on enhancing instructional design, improving student engagement, and supporting academic productivity.



## Astronomical Society Anniversary

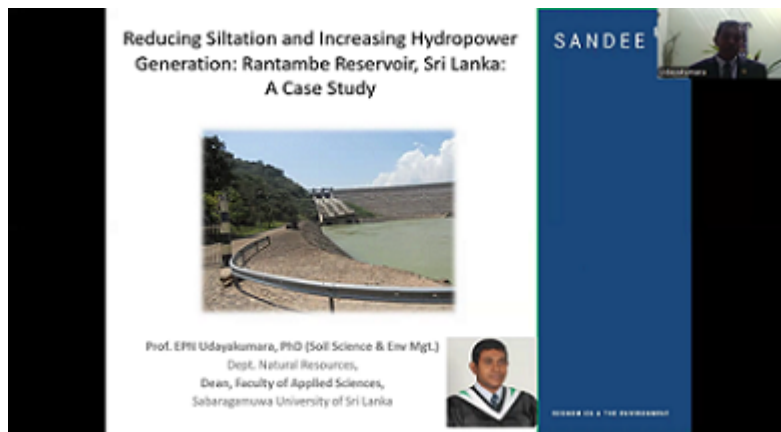
Mr. Malith De Silva of the Department of Physical Sciences and Technology participated as the Chief Guest at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Astronomical Society of Sivali College, Ratnapura, held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## A Plenary Lecture



Prof. E.P.N. Udayakumara, Dean of the Faculty, delivered a plenary lecture titled “Role of Indigenous Knowledge in the Global Scenario” at the International Conference held at Government V.Y.T. PG Autonomous College, Durg, Chhattisgarh, India, on 08<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## Seven-a-Side, One Passion

Sabra Super 7's Season 02, organized by the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education, was successfully held on 08<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The event brought together enthusiastic participants and spectators, showcasing teamwork, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit.



## Guest Speaker



Ms. Amanda Sajiwanie of the Department of Food Science and Technology participated as a guest speaker at the International Women's Day celebration organized

by the Board of Investment at the Seethawaka BOI Zone on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## Workshop on Research Methodology





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

Prof. R.M.K.T. Rathnayaka, Head of the Department of Physical Sciences and Technology, conducted a workshop on research methodology at the Department of Economics, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The session focused on key aspects of the research process, including problem identification, research design, data collection methods, and academic writing, providing participants with practical guidance to strengthen their research skills and scholarly output.

## ERASMUS+ FOUNTAIN Consortium Meeting

Dr. L.D. Lekamge, Prof. E.P.N. Udayakumara, and Snr. Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayaka represented the Faculty as members of the *ERASMUS+ FOUNTAIN* project at the consortium meeting held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The meeting promoted university–industry collaboration for innovation and entrepreneurship, while providing valuable exposure to emerging knowledge and technologies in the areas of agriculture, environment, infrastructure, and energy.



## Air, Heart, and Health



The Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Society of Natural Resource Studies, organized a hybrid guest lecture titled “The Impact of Air Pollution on Cardiovascular Health: Understanding the Link and Risks” on 04<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Anusha Seneviratne of Royal Holloway, University of London, and was coordinated by Dr. Hasintha Wijesekara.

## Global Pathways in STEM

A team from the University of Waterloo, Canada, visited the Faculty to explore potential collaborations in STEM disciplines on 16<sup>th</sup>

May 2025. The visit facilitated constructive discussions on joint research initiatives, academic partnerships, and opportunities for student and staff exchanges, with a focus on advancing innovation and strengthening international collaboration.





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Steering Excellence Forward

Prof. R.M.K.T. Rathnayaka assumed duties as the new Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025. He obtained his Bachelor's degree from the University Ruhuna and later completed his Master's degrees at the University of Sri Jayawardanapura and Wuhan University of Technology, PRC. Subsequently, he earned his Doctoral degree from Wuhan University of Technology, PRC.

Throughout his academic career, Prof. Rathnayaka has made significant contributions to the university in multiple capacities, including teaching, research, and academic leadership. He has also represented the university at numerous national and international platforms, contributing to academic development, research collaboration, and institutional visibility. His extensive experience and scholarly engagement are expected to further strengthen the academic and research excellence of the Faculty.



## Echoes of Environment Day

The Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Society of Natural Resource Studies, organized an open seminar in celebration of World Environment Day on 05<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The event featured a foreword by Prof. Tilak Hewawasam, Chairman of the Central Environmental Authority, followed by two lectures delivered by Dr. Hasintha Wijesekara and Prof. Sandun Perera, highlighting key environmental issues and sustainable practices.





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Training for Asian Glory



The Department of Sports Science and Physical Education conducted a special preparatory workshop for the Sri Lankan Youth Table Tennis Team—Road to the 29<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Championship—on 06<sup>th</sup> and 07<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The workshop was designed to enhance the technical skills, physical conditioning, and strategic readiness of the players in preparation for the upcoming international competition. It also provided a platform for focused training and expert guidance to support the team's performance at the championship.

## A Space for Student Support



A new Student Counselor Office of the Faculty of Applied Sciences was officially inaugurated on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The establishment of this office aims to provide enhanced support services for students, enabling them to seek guidance from mentors and professional student counsellors in a supportive and confidential environment. It is expected to strengthen student well-being and contribute to a more positive and inclusive academic experience.



# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Awareness in Food Safety



Mr. Pramod Bandara of the Department of Food Science and Technology served as a resource person at an awareness programme on Food Safety and Security held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The session aimed to enhance participants' understanding of safe food handling practices, quality assurance, and the importance of food security in ensuring public health and well-being.

## Guiding Sri Lanka



Mr. Pathum Weerakkody served as the Head of Delegation for the Sri Lankan Table Tennis Team at the Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2025, held from 26<sup>th</sup> June to 02<sup>nd</sup> July 2025. In this capacity, he provided leadership and coordination support to the national team throughout the championship, ensuring smooth participation and effective representation at the international event.

## Beyond Plastic, Beyond Limits



Dr. Hasintha Wijesekera from the Department of Natural Resources conducted a workshop titled “Reducing Plastic Use & Creating Sustainability within the Creative Industry” for students of the National Institute of Business Management (NIBM), Colombo. The workshop was held at the National Innovation Centre, NIBM, on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The session focused on promoting sustainable practices within the creative sector, highlighting innovative approaches to reducing plastic consumption and encouraging environmentally responsible design and production methods.

## Concept and Creation

A pre-conference workshop of the 04<sup>th</sup> Applied Science Undergraduate Research Symposium (APSURS 2024), titled “From Concept to Product: Building Entrepreneurial Skills,” was held at the Faculty as a hybrid event on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The workshop focused on strengthening entrepreneurial competencies among undergraduates by guiding them through the process of transforming research ideas into viable products. The event was attended by the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. R.M.K.T. Rathnayaka; Prof. D.A.I. Dayarathna, Director of UBLIC; officials from FADNA; and other academic staff members of the Faculty. Dr. P.G.I. Dias moderated the discussion, facilitating an engaging exchange of ideas among participants.





# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Innovation on the Plate



Foodnovation Expo 2025, the annual Food Science and Technology Exhibition organized by the Department of Food Science and Technology in collaboration with the Food Science & Technology Association and the Innovators Club of the Faculty, was successfully held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The event showcased innovative food products, student research outputs, and emerging technologies in the field of food science. It also provided a platform for students to demonstrate creativity, entrepreneurial thinking, and practical application of scientific knowledge.



## Fitness in the Community

The undergraduates of the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education carried out a series of community service projects during June 2025, engaging several schools in the Belihuloya and Balangoda areas. The initiatives included “Fit Kids 2025”, “Shuttle Smashers,” and the “Fit Rush”, an aerobic fitness programme, and a first aid camp.

These activities were designed to promote physical fitness, health awareness, and practical life skills among school students, while also strengthening community engagement and service learning among undergraduates.





# Faculty of Computing

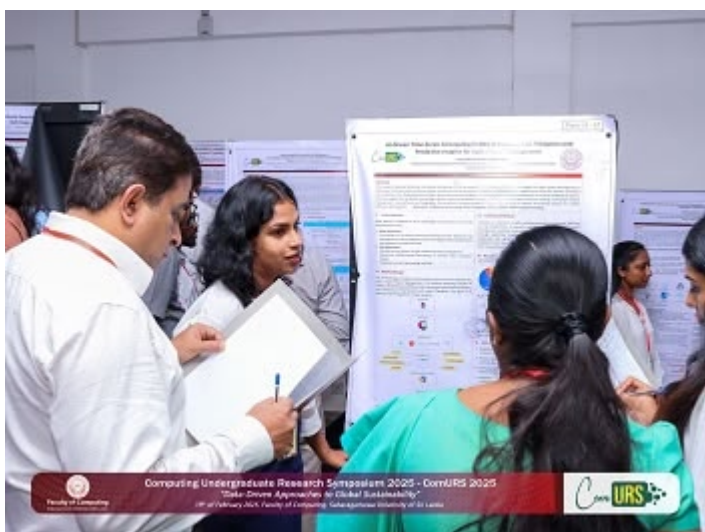
## ComSpective

Volume 04, Issue 02 of ComSpective, the bi-annual technical magazine published by the Faculty of Computing, was officially released on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025. This latest edition features a rich collection of innovative research, emerging technologies, and insightful perspectives that reflect the evolving landscape of computing and information technology. The publication serves as a platform for knowledge dissemination, highlighting scholarly contributions and fostering intellectual engagement within the academic and professional community.



## ComURS 2025

The Faculty of Computing successfully concluded the 02<sup>nd</sup> Computing Undergraduate Research Symposium 2025 on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The symposium was held under the theme “Data-Driven Approaches to Global Sustainability,” with participation from final-year undergraduates of the 2018/2019 academic cohort. Approximately 50 students presented their original research projects in computing and related fields, demonstrating their ability to engage in meaningful and impactful research. The event provided a valuable platform for students to enhance their skills in public speaking, effectively communicate research ideas, and defend their work before academic experts. Outstanding contributions were recognized through awards for the best poster presentations, encouraging excellence and innovation in undergraduate research.

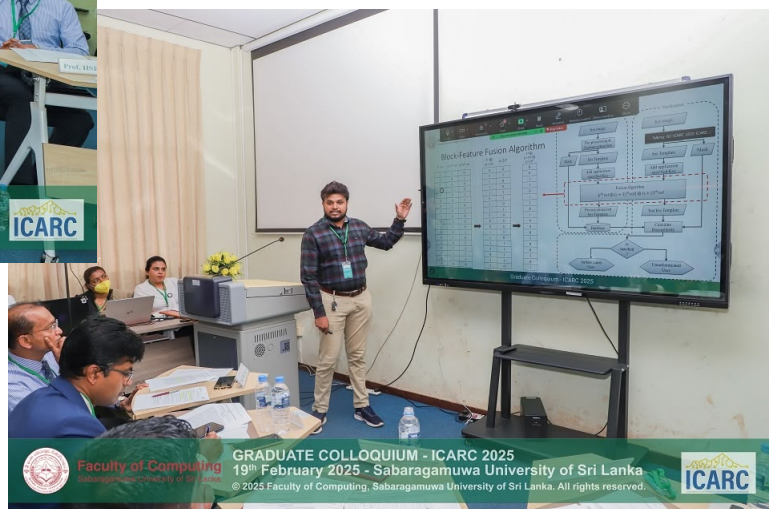




# Faculty of Computing

## Graduate Colloquium

The Faculty of Computing concluded the 01<sup>st</sup> Graduate Colloquium, held in parallel with ICARC 2025, on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025. This prestigious event provided a dynamic platform for early-career researchers in computing to present and discuss their research work in a scholarly setting. The colloquium featured a diverse range of topics, including artificial intelligence, data science, software engineering, cyber-security, and human-computer interaction, reflecting current trends and advancements in the field. It also facilitated academic exchange, constructive feedback, and networking opportunities, thereby supporting the professional development of emerging researchers.





# Faculty of Geomatics

## Insights from an InSAR Expert

Prof. Falk, a leading scientist in the field of Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR), delivered an engaging and insightful guest lecture on 06<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The session, which was open to a wide audience, attracted students and professionals from diverse fields including surveying, remote sensing, geology, natural resources, and image processing. Participants had the valuable opportunity to learn directly from an internationally acclaimed expert, with the lecture highlighting Prof. Falk's recent research on subsiding structures in Florida. The session also encouraged active discussion and knowledge exchange, enriching participants' understanding of advanced geospatial technologies and their real-world applications.



## Air Symposium



The Faculty of Geomatics participated in the Colombo Air Symposium 2025, organized by the Sri Lanka Air Force on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo. This prestigious event provided an excellent platform for faculty members and students to showcase the applications and impact of geospatial science, surveying, and remote sensing across diverse fields such as defence, disaster management, aviation, and national development. The symposium facilitated meaningful engagement with distinguished industry leaders, academics, and military experts, enabling participants to explore the role of geospatial intelligence in advancing global security and technological innovation. It also offered valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing, academic dialogue, and professional networking, reinforcing the Faculty's commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and national and international collaboration.

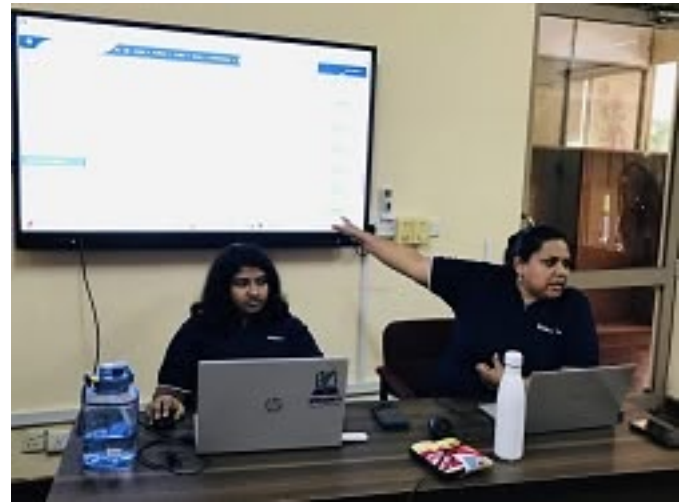




# Faculty of Management Studies

## A Promising Start

The Industrial Training Unit of Walkers Tours conducted a training programme from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to provide industry exposure and practical training for 12 selected undergraduates. The programme aimed to enhance students' professional competencies by offering hands-on experience in a real-world industry setting. Under the guidance of Mr. Manishka Perera, Senior Department Head – CFU and Database, and Ms. Ayesha Dias, Junior Executive at Walkers Tours, the trainees received practical training on the Oklo system and gained valuable insights into industry operations and workplace practices.



## Razzmatazz Season II



Advertising Day 2025, organized by the Department of Marketing Management, was held on 04<sup>th</sup> March 2025 featuring a fashion show and a tree-planting campaign. The event aimed to showcase and promote creative advertising talent among university students across Sri Lanka while fostering collaboration and interaction among higher educational institutions.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## Trek the Trail 03



With the support of the Outdoor Recreation Center (ORC) of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, a special programme was held on 09th and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in the scenic Belihuloya region. The event was organized with the objectives of enhancing students' critical thinking, organizational, leadership, and teamwork skills while fostering empathy, social sensitivity, and self-confidence. Through a range of interactive and outdoor activities, participants were encouraged to collaborate, adapt to challenges, and develop personal and interpersonal competencies essential for future academic and professional success. The programme also provided students with a valuable opportunity to experience experiential learning within a natural environment.

## New Intake

The Inauguration of the Academic Programme for the 2023/2024 Intake was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Prof. Dayananda Somasundara Auditorium. The event was organized to formally welcome the new student intake and introduce them to the academic programmes, university culture, and student support systems available at the university.

The programme provided students and parents with a comprehensive overview of academic expectations, facilities, extracurricular opportunities, and student services offered by the university. It also aimed to foster a sense of belonging, confidence, and motivation among the freshers as they began their university journey, while encouraging parents to understand and support their children's academic and personal development.





# Faculty of Management Studies

## Green Careers

The official launch of the book *A Student's Guide to Green Jobs*, organized by the Climate and Conservation Consortium in collaboration with the EcoBiz Platform – Junior Chapter, was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The event highlighted the growing importance of environmentally sustainable careers and aimed to guide students in exploring emerging opportunities within the green economy.



## Communication Day

“Communication Day 2025” was held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 with the aim of enhancing communication skills among students. The event was designed to foster creativity and innovation among undergraduates, while also encouraging positive attitudes towards the English language. In addition, the programme sought to expand students’ social networks and provide practical exposure to business communication in a professional context. Through interactive activities and engagements, the event offered participants valuable opportunities to develop confidence, teamwork, and effective communication skills essential for their academic and professional development.

## Students for Social Impact



Students actively participated in the faculty project series Pahandora, conducted from 29<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> June 2025, as part of a community engagement and social responsibility initiative. The programme successfully completed six undergraduate-led projects aimed at supporting schools and communities in the surrounding areas. The initiatives included a medical camp and a series of donation projects involving ICT laboratory equipment, sports and academic resources, sanitary facilities, water tanks, stationery, green boards, sports items, and musical instruments distributed among five selected schools. The programme reflected the students’ commitment to community service, social welfare, and collaborative development while fostering leadership, teamwork, and civic responsibility.



## 29 Years of Excellence

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka celebrated its University Day on 06<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Technology with great enthusiasm, pride, and unity. The occasion marked the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the university, commemorating nearly three decades of growth, achievement, and commitment to excellence in education, research, and community engagement. The celebration commenced with the arrival of distinguished guests and invitees, followed by the traditional lighting of the oil lamp, symbolizing wisdom and prosperity. The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. Sunil Shantha; Mr. Pradeep Nilanga Dela Bandara, Chief Custodian of the Sri Dalada Maligawa; Mr. Parakrama Niriella; and other key university officials. A vibrant Wes dancing performance added cultural elegance and ceremonial significance to the occasion. The ceremony also recognized the accomplishments and dedication of members of the university community through the presentation of awards for outstanding research performance, sports achievements, long-standing service, and special appreciations. Students and staff members were honoured for their valuable contributions to the advancement and reputation of the university.









# Faculty of Management Studies

## SABRA Marketing



The Annual General Meeting of the SABRA Marketing Association was held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the Faculty Auditorium. Organized by the Department of Marketing Management, the event brought together members of the association to reflect on its achievements, activities, and progress over the past year. The programme also included the appointment of new office bearers for the year 2025, marking the continuation of student leadership and organizational development within the association.

## Equality through Awareness

A workshop titled “Rights, Rules, and Respect: Building a Safe and Equal Society” was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 with the objective of fostering inclusivity, safety, and equality within society. The programme was organized by the Gender Equity and Equality Cell of the Faculty of Management Studies. Dr. Anusha Edirisinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Criminal Justice at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, served as the resource person for the session. The workshop provided participants with valuable insights into issues related to gender equity, social responsibility, mutual respect, and the importance of creating safe and inclusive environments within educational and professional settings.



## FutureScape 2025

Targeting final-year students, the Faculty organized a Career Fair on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo 07. The event provided a valuable platform for students to connect with leading employers, explore





# Faculty of Management Studies

## *Sancharaka Udawa*



Reflecting its role as a leading academic contributor to the tourism sector, the Department of Tourism Management participated with a dedicated stall at *Sancharaka Udawa* 2025 held at the BMICH. Designed and managed by students, the stall creatively embodied the spirit and identity of Sabaragamuwa through vibrant displays, interactive activities, and engaging presentations.

## **Double Victory - Department of Tourism Management**



At the Sri Lanka MICE Tourism Conclave 2025, the project “Celestia Camp” secured first place in the Group Category, recognizing the team’s creativity and innovation in tourism development. The event was organized to identify and promote the most innovative tourism proposals presented by undergraduates. In the Individual Category, Mr. Chamath Kavindra emerged as the winner with his project “Rolling Paradise”, which was highly commended for its innovative concept and practical applicability to the tourism industry.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Cultures through Education

A welcoming event for Ms. Shiina Iwakura of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development. The programme was organized to officially assign volunteer lecturers to various institutions across Sri Lanka with the aim of strengthening academic collaboration and enhancing educational programmes, particularly in the field of language education.



## Cultural Understanding



A three-day Cultural and Academic Exchange Programme between Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and Mie University, Japan was held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The programme aimed to promote cultural understanding and strengthen academic collaboration between Sri Lanka and Japan through the exchange of knowledge and experiences in Japanese language education and related academic fields. The event included interactive sessions, academic discussions, and cultural exchange activities that encouraged mutual learning and deeper engagement between students and faculty members of both institutions. It also provided a valuable platform for fostering long-term international cooperation in education and research.





# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## 70 Years of Friendship



The Japan–Sri Lanka Cultural Exchange TV Programme was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation Studio in celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Official Development Assistance (ODA). The programme aimed to highlight the longstanding cultural relationship between Japan and Sri Lanka through songs, discussions, and cultural performances while strengthening mutual understanding and friendship between the two nations. The event featured the participation of fourth-year Japanese language students and members of the Sabaragamuwa University community, providing them with an opportunity to engage in international cultural exchange and media exposure.



## Digital Access to Student Well-Being



The Faculty introduced an online reservation system for the Sitharana Psychological Counselling Center, which became operational on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The system was developed to simplify the counsellor appointment process while minimizing paper usage, supporting the university's commitment to efficient and environmentally sustainable administrative practices. The online platform enables students, academic staff, and non-academic staff to conveniently schedule counselling appointments through a streamlined and user-friendly booking process. By improving accessibility and reducing administrative delays, the system enhances the delivery of counselling services and promotes the well-being of the university community.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Beauty of *Hinamatsuri*



The Japanese Doll Festival known as, Hinamatsuri was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 in front of the Japanese Language Laboratory of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages. The event was organized to introduce students to the cultural significance and traditions associated with Japan's Doll Festival while promoting awareness and appreciation of Japanese heritage and customs. This event provided participants with an interactive cultural experience that highlighted the artistry, symbolism, and traditional practices connected to Hinamatsuri. Through engaging activities and displays, the event fostered greater understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture among students and participants.

## View Volume 04

The Launching Ceremony of *View* Magazine, Volume 04, was held on 04<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Organized by the Student Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics, the event marked the unveiling of the latest edition of the magazine, celebrating the literary and creative achievements of its contributors. This publication provided a platform for students to showcase their talents in writing, critical thinking, and creative expression.



## Education in Japan



JICA Volunteers Mr. Ryoken Kono and Ms. Shiina Iwakura contributed as resource persons to the Workshop on Primary Education in Japan held on 05<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The programme was organized to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the Japanese primary education system through interactive sessions and engaging activities conducted by native Japanese speakers. The workshop offered valuable insights into teaching methods, classroom culture, student development, and educational practices in

Japan, while also promoting cross-cultural learning and academic exchange. Participants benefited from direct interaction with the volunteers, enhancing their understanding of Japanese language and educational traditions.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Japanese Calligraphy

A Japanese Calligraphy Workshop conducted by Ms. Takata Junko, a Master of Japanese Calligraphy, was held on 06<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Japanese Laboratory of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages. Two sessions were conducted on the same day, providing students with a valuable opportunity to experience the traditional Japanese art of calligraphy. The workshop aimed to introduce participants to the cultural and artistic significance of Japanese calligraphy while offering hands-on training under the guidance of an experienced master calligrapher. Through practical demonstrations and interactive activities, students gained insights into the techniques, discipline, and aesthetic values associated with this traditional art form.



## Cultural Harmony



The Japan & Sri Lanka Cultural Festival 2025 was held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the National Youth Services Council, Mirigama Training Centre, bringing together the cultural traditions of both Japan and Sri Lanka. Through music, dance, and artistic performances, the event created a vibrant platform for celebrating cultural exchange and strengthening bilateral friendship. It was jointly organized by the National Youth Services Council, the Department of Languages of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, SUSL, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The programme fostered mutual understanding, cultural appreciation, and collaboration between the two nations.

## Building Bonds



“Caffeine and Bonds”, an event organized by the Student Circle of the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT), was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The programme was designed to strengthen student interaction and engagement while enhancing the benefits students receive through participation in the student circle. The event provided a friendly and interactive environment that encouraged students to build stronger connections, share experiences, and develop teamwork and communication skills. It also motivated students to take initiative in organizing similar programmes that contribute to personal development, student welfare, and a vibrant academic community.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Echoes of Tamil Poetry



A book launch organized by the Department of Languages was held on 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2025, in collaboration with lecturers, providing students with a platform to showcase their creativity and express themselves with authenticity and purpose. The event was designed to promote a space where students could share their creative work and engage in meaningful academic and artistic collaboration. The publication featured a collection of Tamil poems contributed by both students and lecturers, highlighting literary talent within the department.

## Art of Translation



The annual launch of the translated short story collection *Sampratīti 02* was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at the Prof. Dayananda Somasundara Auditorium. The event celebrated and promoted the creative and academic achievements of final-year students of the Translation Studies (Hons) programme, while encouraging professional engagement with the art and practice of literary translation. Dr. Dhammika Jayasinghe, Senior Lecturer at the University of Ruhuna, attended the event as the keynote speaker and shared valuable insights into literary translation,

language, and creative expression. The programme highlighted the students' linguistic skills, cultural understanding, and contribution to the field of translation and literature.

## Academic Illuminations – Session 06



The sixth session of Academic Illuminations, titled “How to Invest in the Share Market,” was held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025 via the Zoom platform. The session was organized by the Student Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics, aiming to enhance students' financial literacy and investment awareness. The programme featured Prof. Nimalakith Samarakoon, Professor in Economics, Department of Economics

and Statistics, as the resource person. She delivered an insightful presentation on share market fundamentals, smart investment strategies, and risk management techniques, providing participants with practical knowledge applicable to real-world financial decision-making.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Academic Illuminations – Session 07

The Student Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics organized a workshop titled “An Introduction to MS Access” on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The session was designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of database management using MS Access, with a focus on query building and key functional operations of the software. Mr. Malith Induranga, Demonstrator from the Department of Information and Communication Technology, served as the resource person for the programme.



## China Study Camp

A total of 19 students, including 14 Chinese language learners from SUSL and 5 students from Ferguson High School, Ratnapura, and Bandarawela Central College, participated in the 2025 Study Camp Programme at Huanggang Normal University, China. The programme was held from 08<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025. The initiative aimed to provide Chinese language students with immersive cultural experiences in China, enabling them to enhance their linguistic proficiency, broaden their cultural understanding, and develop meaningful cross-cultural friendships. The programme also strengthened academic and cultural ties between the participating institutions.



A guest lecture on Indian culture was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the New Mini Auditorium of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages with the objective of enhancing students' understanding of Indian cultural heritage and traditions. The programme provided valuable insights into the historical, religious, and social dimensions of Indian culture, encouraging cross-cultural awareness and academic engagement among students. The session was conducted by Dr. Seelawansa Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Mahabodhi Society, Sarnath Centre, India, and Prof. Pravesh Bharadwaj, Senior Professor in the Department of History at Banaras Hindu University.

## Richness of Indian Culture





# Faculty of Technology

## ICET 2025 Goes Live



The official website of the International Conference on Emerging Technologies (ICET) was launched on 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at the Faculty of Technology by the Vice Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Prof. M. Sunil Shantha. Held under the theme “Technology for a Sustainable Future,” the conference is

hosted by the Faculty of Technology and aims to bring together researchers, industry leaders, and innovators from around the world to explore emerging technologies and their role in advancing a sustainable future.



## INNOVA TECH 2025



INNOVA TECH 2025 was successfully organized as a platform to celebrate the creativity, innovation, and technological ingenuity of students of the Faculty of Technology. The event featured cutting-edge inventions, inspiring presentations, and an innovation competition that showcased the problem-solving abilities and entrepreneurial potential of undergraduate students. Participants presented innovative projects addressing

real-world challenges, while outstanding contributions were recognized through awards and prizes. The event fostered collaboration, creativity, and innovation, inspiring students to transform their ideas into practical solutions that contribute to technological advancement and sustainable development. The event took place on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Faculty of Technology premises.



# Faculty of Technology

## ICET 2025

The International Conference on Emerging Technologies (ICET) 2025, held on 01<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at the Faculty of Technology, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, under the theme “Technology for a Sustainable Future,” was successfully concluded. The conference brought together researchers, industry experts, and innovators from around the world to exchange knowledge and explore emerging advancements in science and technology towards building a sustainable future. A key highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by Prof. Satoshi Kera from the Institute for Molecular Science, Japan, which provided valuable insights into cutting-edge research and innovation. The successful completion of ICET 2025 reflected the dedication of the organizing committee and emphasized the importance of global collaboration and technological advancement in addressing future challenges.





# Faculty of Technology

## URSTech 2025



The 02<sup>nd</sup> Undergraduate Research Symposium of Technology (URSTech 2025) was successfully held on 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 at the Faculty of Technology. The symposium provided a valuable platform to celebrate undergraduate research, innovation, and

technological advancement while enabling students to share their research findings with a wider academic audience. A key highlight of the event was the plenary lecture delivered by Associate Professor Nakayama Yasuo from the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Tokyo University of Science, who shared valuable insights with participants. The symposium featured research presentations across several disciplines, including Advances in Emerging Sciences, Applied Biotechnology and Microbiology, Bio-energy and Bio-fuel Generation

Technology, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology, Drug Discovery and Development, and Mechanical Engineering Technology. The event encouraged knowledge exchange, academic engagement, and collaboration among students and researchers, further strengthening the culture of research and innovation within the Faculty of Technology.



## Across Continents



A delegation from the University of Oradea, Romania visited the Faculty on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to explore potential collaborations in research and student exchange programmes. The discussions focused on strengthening international academic partnerships, promoting knowledge sharing, and creating opportunities for cross-cultural learning experiences. The visit was facilitated with the valuable support of Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies, whose efforts contributed significantly to initiating and coordinating this academic

dialogue. The engagement marked an important step towards establishing future collaborations and joint initiatives that will benefit both institutions.



# Staff Achievements

## Honouring Excellence



Dr. A.W.S. Chandana, Head of the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education, was awarded the SILK Award for Most Outstanding Contribution to Sports Education on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. This prestigious recognition highlights his significant contributions to the advancement of sports education through teaching, research, and professional engagement, as well as his continued efforts in promoting excellence within the discipline.

## Excellence in Scientific Review

Dr. W.T.L.S. Fernando from the Department of Physical Sciences and Technology was awarded the Outstanding Reviewer Award 2024 by the Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics. This recognition acknowledges his valuable contributions to the peer-review process and his commitment to maintaining high scholarly standards in the field of applied physics.

## Chair of IEEE - Sri Lanka Section

Prof. S. Vasanthapriyan, Dean of the Faculty of Computing, has been appointed as the Chair of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Sri Lanka Section—an esteemed recognition of his dedication to academic excellence, research, and professional service. This distinguished appointment reflects his continued leadership and contributions to the advancement of computing and engineering disciplines, both nationally and internationally, while enhancing the university's academic standing within the global community.

## Doctoral Degree Completion



Dr. K.D.L.R. Kapuge, Lecturer at the Department of Marketing Management completed her Doctor of Philosophy at the Massey University, New Zealand.



Dr. Namal Wijesundara, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Tourism Management completed his Doctor of Philosophy at the Management and Science University (MSU), Malaysia.



# Staff Achievements

## Masters Degree Completion



Mr. H. M. K. T. Gunawardane, Lecturer at the Department of Computing and Information Systems completed his Master of Philosophy degree.



Mr. G. A. C. H. Herath, Lecturer at the Department of Computing and Information Systems completed his Master of Philosophy at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.

# Student Achievements

## Rising Stars in Sport



Mr. M.R. A. Ahlam and Ms. S.M.H.N. Samarakoon, undergraduates from the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education, were awarded the titles of Best Sportsman and Best Sportswoman of the Year 2024, respectively, at the 29<sup>th</sup> University Day celebration held on 06th February 2025.



# Student Achievements

## Young Innovators



Ms. D.G.S.C. Jayasooriya and Mr. V. Navayukan, undergraduates from the Department of Food Science and Technology, under the supervision of Dr. P.G.I. Dias, were awarded the Best Young Innovator and Best Poster Presenter awards, respectively, at the International Research Conference in Health Sciences organized by the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

# New Appointments



Prof. T. U. I. Peiris, has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Accountancy and Finance.



Prof. B.T.G.S Kumara, has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Software Engineering.



# New Appointments



Prof. P.G.R.N.I. Pussella, has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Remote Sensing & GIS.



Dr. (Mrs.) J.K.S.C. Perera, has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Business Management.



Dr. H.N.M. Sarangika, has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Physical Sciences and Technology.



Dr. L.V. Ranaweera, has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Natural Resources.



# Promotions



Prof. Wasantha Rathnayake, Department of Tourism Management, was promoted to the post of Senior Professor.



Prof. S. K. Gunathilake, Department of Natural Resources, was promoted to the post of Senior Professor.



Prof. J.M.C.K. Jayawardana, Department of Natural Resources, was promoted to the post of Senior Professor.



Dr. Hasintha Wijsekara, Department of Natural Resources, was promoted to the post of Professor.



Dr. A.W.S. Chandana, Department of Sports Science and Physical Education, was promoted to the post of Professor.



# Promotions



Dr. Sugeeswari Lekamge, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computing and Information Systems, was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade I).



Dr. U.A.P. Ishanka, Senior Lecturer, Department of Data Science, was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade I).



Mrs. M.S.H. Rathnasiri, Lecturer (Confirmed), Department of Marketing Management, was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Mrs. J.H.A.W.N. Hettiarachchi, Lecturer (Confirmed), Department of Marketing Management, was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).





## **Advisory Board**

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## **Acknowledgement**

Director,

Centre 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.

**If you wish to publicize any significant news related to your Faculty, Department, or Centre at SUSL in the Newsletter, please send us your news to Editor in Chief of the Newsletter, Centre for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD).**

[newsletter@crkd.sab.ac.lk](mailto:newsletter@crkd.sab.ac.lk)

Tel- 045 2280013 |Fax- 045 2280013

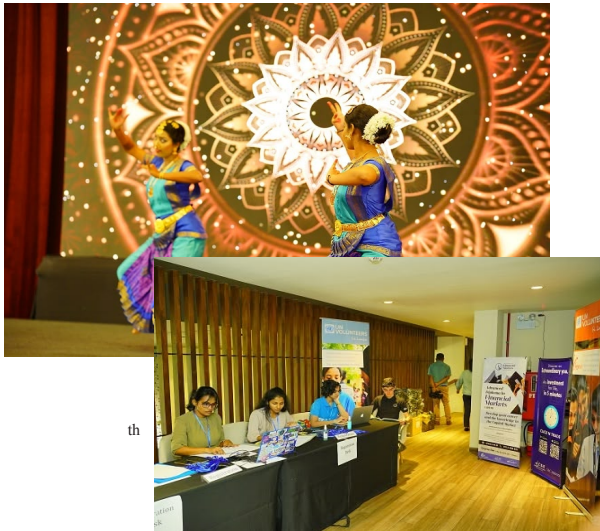


## ICSUSL 2025



The 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (ICSUSL 2025) will be held in parallel with the 6<sup>th</sup> China–Sri Lanka Communication and Cooperation Forum, with the objective of promoting academic exchange and strengthening collaborative partnerships between the two countries.

Organized biennially by the Centre for Research and Knowledge Dissemination of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, ICSUSL 2025 will mark the tenth consecutive edition of the series. The conference will provide an inclusive platform for academics, researchers, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and industry professionals to present, disseminate, and exchange their research findings across a broad range of disciplines.



This year conference will be conducted in a hybrid mode from 01<sup>st</sup> to 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at the University premises. The conference will feature eight thematic tracks encompassing diverse fields of research, further reinforcing its reputation as one of Sri Lanka's most comprehensive multidisciplinary international conferences. The programme will include keynote addresses by distinguished national and international scholars, invited guest lectures, and presentations of multidisciplinary research that will foster scholarly dialogue, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, and facilitate the sharing of innovative knowledge and research outcomes.

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Web : [www.sab.ac.lk/crkd](http://www.sab.ac.lk/crkd) | Email : [newsletter@crkd.sab.ac.lk](mailto:newsletter@crkd.sab.ac.lk) | Tel : 045 228 0013 | Fax : 045 228 0013