

# NEWSLETTER SUSL

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka



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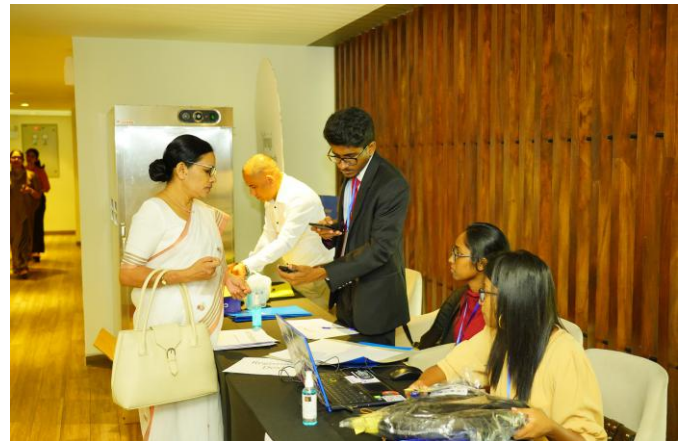
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## ICSUSL 2023



The Centre for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD) at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka organized the 09th Biennial International Conference from 06th to 08th December 2023. This year's conference was held under the theme "Advancing Multidisciplinary Approaches for a Sustainable and Resilient Future." In light of global challenges such as rising energy prices, inflation, declining food supplies, a growing world population, political conflicts, cultural disputes, and significant environmental issues, humanity faces critical crossroads. The conference aimed to address these pressing issues by fostering discussions and collaborations to find sustainable solutions that can avert the potential collapse of both human societies and natural ecosystems.



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# University Events

## ICSUSL 2023

The event provided a platform with eight thematic tracks for scholars and researchers worldwide to forge global partnerships and advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This year, the conference received numerous research submissions covering diverse topics, from which high-quality research was selected for presentation. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Malik Peiris, a renowned expert in infectious disease epidemics and the current Chair of Virology at the School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong.



The event also featured Senior Prof. Raj Somadeva from PGIAR, University of Kelaniya, who was honored as the Guest of Honour. Additionally, Prof. Judith Simcox from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Prof. Wayne Barkhouse from the University of North Dakota contributed as guest speakers, offering valuable insights and perspectives on the conference themes.



# University Events

## ජීවිතයට Fitness



Another event of the Human Library Project, organized by the Library, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL) was held on 06<sup>th</sup> July

## Alms-giving

The university hosted a solemn and meaningful alms-giving ceremony on 07<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The event, rich in tradition and cultural significance, brought together the members of the university community, including students and staff. The ceremony featured a series of rituals and offerings, symbolizing the university's commitment to fostering spiritual well-being and promoting the values of compassion and generosity. The gathering not only reinforced the university's cultural heritage but also served as a moment of unity and reflection for all who participated.



## Career Development

ICSUSL Workshop was held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at the Staff Development Center, SUSL. Another workshop for the staff of SUSL was conducted by Mr. M.F. Hibathul Careem, Registrar, Uva Wellassa University on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023.



# University Events

## Herbal Tea Collaboration

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka has taken significant steps towards commercializing a new herbal tea product. A successful meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, with Food & Nature (Pvt.) Ltd (FADNA) at the Vice-Chancellor's Office Boardroom to discuss a potential collaboration. The project will involve the Institute of Biochemistry of the University of Colombo and FADNA. Attendees included key figures such as Senior Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, Vice-Chancellor, SUSL; Prof. E.P.N. Udayakumara, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences; Prof. Indunil Dayaratne, UBLC Director, along with other prominent university representatives and FADNA's Managing Director, Mr. Chamendra Somatunga.



## Breeding Orchid



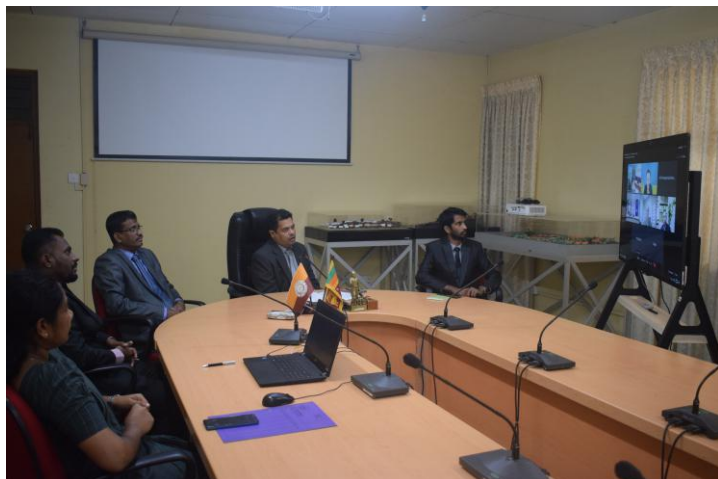
A one-day session on of a training programme on "To be an Orchid Breeder", organized by SUSL in collaboration with Taprobane Orchid Society of Sri Lanka and Lions Club was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The event was conducted by Prof. Surawit Wannakrairoj, President, Orchid Society of Thailand.



# University Events

## New Collaborations

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was held online on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023.



## 24<sup>th</sup> General Convocation

The second day of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Convocation of SUSL was held at the Prof. J.W. Dayananda Somasundara Auditorium on the university premises. The proceedings of the convocation were presided over by the Chancellor, Prof. Kamburugamuwe Vajira Nayaka Thero, and the event was graced by the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, along with distinguished invitees, including Deans of all faculties, Heads of departments, members of the Academic and Administrative staff, graduands, and their proud parents.



The convocation day two took place on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023, and featured Major General (Retired) G.A. Chandrasiri, Chairman of Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited, as the Chief Guest. Several medals were awarded to students in recognition of their exceptional academic and extracurricular achievements, adding to the joy and pride of the occasion. The event marked a significant milestone for the graduands as they celebrated their accomplishments and prepared to embark on their future endeavors.

# University Events

## QA Workshop

A workshop led by Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Director of the CQA at the University of Peradeniya, was conducted at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The event focused on the theme, "Quality Assurance: The Way Forward in Quality Enhancement at SUSL." The workshop was primarily aimed at the academic staff of SUSL, with the goal of fostering a deeper understanding of quality assurance practices and their critical role in improving the overall educational standards at the university. Prof. Pallegama shared valuable insights and best practices from his extensive experience in the field, emphasizing the importance of continuous improvement and institutional commitment to achieving academic excellence. This event was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> August 2023.



## Enhancing Payment Systems



A discussion on implementing a People's Bank payment gateway was held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023, in the Board Room of the Vice Chancellor's office.

## Venture Verse



"Venture Verse", the web launching ceremony was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## Cricket Camp

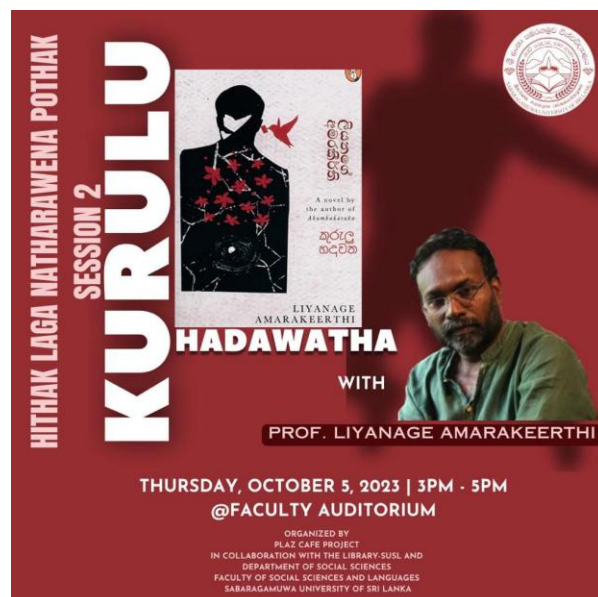
The Welfare Cricket Camp, organized by the staff of the Sabaragamuwa University was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the university grounds.



# University Events

## Plazz Café Project

Plazz Café is an innovative initiative launched by the Library, SUSL, in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, SUSL, designed to foster open discussions within the SUSL community. The second event of the Plazz Café Project, titled '*Hithak Langa Nathara Wena Pothak*,' took place on 05<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at the Prof. Dayananda Somasundara Auditorium, SUSL. During this event, Prof. Liyanage Amarakeerthi from the University of Peradeniya provided valuable insights through a scholarly discussion and book review of his own novel, '*Kurulu Hadawatha*.' This engaging session contributed to a vibrant intellectual exchange among the attendees.



## Teaming Up with Finco

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka entered into a mutual agreement with Finco Technologies (Pvt) Ltd., with the support of the University Business Linkage Cell. This partnership marks a significant step forward in fostering collaboration between academia and industry. The event took place on 06<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



# University Events

## LQAC Webinar

"Transforming Education with AI: Potential and Pitfalls" was the second event of the Library Quality Assurance Cell webinar series on "AI Horizons". The webinar was conducted by Mr. Kasun Munasinghe, Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



## AI and the Future Library



An online pre-conference workshop organized by the Library, SUSL, in collaboration with the IEEE Student Branch of SUSL, was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The workshop was conducted by Mr. M.A. Kasun Munsinghe, Assistant Librarian at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. Held in conjunction with the 09<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, the event focused on exploring the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in the fields of libraries and higher education.

## New Leadership: Vice-Chancellor Appointment



His Excellency the President has appointed Prof. M. Sunil Shantha as the Vice-Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. He officially assumed office on 02<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, marking his appointment as the 8<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the university. Prof. Sunil Shantha previously served as the 6<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor from 2017 to 2020 and also held the position of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages. His extensive experience and leadership roles within the university underscore his deep commitment to advancing academic excellence and institutional development.

## Ring the Bell

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Colombo Stock Exchange, organized an event to introduce the partners and sponsors of the International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka 2023. The event took place on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at the Stock Exchange building in Colombo.



# University Events

## Assisting the University

The Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy, Sri Lanka donated medical equipment to the university on 09<sup>th</sup> December 2023.



## ARS 2023

The Annual Research Sessions 2023 (ARS 2023), organized by the Centre for Research and Knowledge Dissemination, took place on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, at the university premises. This year's event, themed "Brace the Knowledge: Expanding Horizons, Unfolding the Future," offered a robust platform for presenting and discussing innovative research conducted by academics, postgraduate students, and undergraduate students at the university. The sessions featured a diverse range of research topics and provided valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and academic discourse.



Dr. Narendra Silva, General Manager of Ceylon Electricity Board, Lanka Electricity Company (Pvt.) Ltd., delivered the keynote address, focusing on renewable energy and exploring various avenues to meet future energy needs. His insights highlighted the importance of sustainable energy solutions and their relevance not only to ongoing research and development in the field but also to their impact on the country's economy.



# Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

## Expanding Facilities

The expansion of the farm is a significant milestone for the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, providing enhanced facilities for practical learning, research, and innovation in agriculture. The new facilities of the farm were officially handed over with a ceremony attended by Senior Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, Vice-Chancellor of SUSL, along with faculty members. This included novel infrastructure aimed at improving animal husbandry and sustainable farming practices. It is expected to serve as a valuable resource for both students and researchers, contributing to the advancement of agricultural knowledge and technology. The event took place on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023.



## Floral Beauty

The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences organized a vibrant and captivating flower exhibition. The event showcased a stunning array of floral displays, highlighting the beauty and diversity of various plant species. Faculty members, students, and visitors from the broader community came together to admire the meticulously arranged exhibits, which reflected the faculty's dedication to horticulture and botanical education. The exhibition not only provided an opportunity for learning and inspiration but also fostered a deeper appreciation for the natural world among all attendees. The exhibition was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023.



# Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

## Raising Livestock Awareness

A workshop on livestock production and technology, organized by the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023, for a group of school children.



## Other Livestock Activities

Throughout October 2023, the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences conducted a series of comprehensive livestock programmes at their farm. These initiatives included hands-on extension activities led by students, as well as specialized training sessions for the participants. The programmes were designed to enhance practical knowledge in livestock management, offering valuable real-world experience to students while also providing essential skills and training to members of the local farming community.

## Marketing and Advertising

The Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, successfully conducted the “മലിം: Marketing Plan and Advertising Competition-2023” on 05<sup>th</sup> December 2023, in collaboration with the Department of Food Science and Technology of the Faculty of Applied Sciences. The aim of this competition was to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge related to advertising and promotion in food businesses and its practical application. At this event, seven teams of third-year, second-semester B.Sc. Food Business Management degree programme students presented separate marketing plans with suitable advertising strategies for seven innovative food products developed by seven students in the Department of Food Science and Technology of the Faculty of Applied Sciences.



# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Samanalawewa Power Project

The Department of Natural Resources organized a guest lecture on “History and the Hydroelectric Power Project in Samanalawewa”. This lecture was delivered by Dr. Jagath Gunathilake on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023.



## Olympic Value



The Department of Sports Science and Physical Education organized the Olympic Value Education Programme from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## Consultancy for Betterment



The Staff of the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education provided sports expertise for enlightening the 47<sup>th</sup> National Festival Games held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## Excelling in Food Innovation

The innovative products showcased by the students of the Department of Food Science and Technology were widely admired at the 'Profood Propack Agbiz 2023' exhibition held from 04<sup>th</sup> to 06<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in Colombo.



The department organized a 'Profood Propack Stall Reshow' on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to facilitate the university community and the school children in the area to see their exhibits and products displayed at 'Profood Propack Agbiz 2023'.

# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Shaping Your Academic Career

The Department of Natural Resources hosted an alumni talk by its one of the prominent alumnus, Prof. Meththika Vithanage. This event was held on 09<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and it guided the students with insights for prospective career opportunities and shaping their academic career.



## Orientation

The orientation programme of the new student intake of the faculty was held online from 14<sup>th</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and successfully concluded with a talent show performed by the students.



## Gem Industry



A Workshop on "Gem Industry in Sri Lanka: Challenges & Opportunities" was organized by the Department of Natural Resources on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Medicine, Rathnapura. This event also included a panel discussion with experts in the field.

## Step into Water Safety

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Life Saving Association (SLLS) signed an MoU on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, signifying their joint commitment to advancing education in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid, Water Safety and Lifesaving, facilitated by the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education.



# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## NR Night

The NR night 2023, an annual event organized by the Society for Natural Resource Studies was held at the faculty premises on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



## Fire Night

The Department of Food Science and Technology organized “Fire Night” commemorating the world food day on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



## ICAS 2023

The first International Conference on Applied Sports (ICAS 2023), organized by the Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education, in collaboration with the University of Management and Technology (UMT), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam was concluded successfully on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Admiring Efforts

Industrial Innovations from the Department of Food Science and Technology were admired at the "Ruhunu Rasa Saraniya" exhibition, which was organized by the Southern Provincial Ministry of Agriculture and held in Galle Town Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



## A Keynote Speech



Prof. Udeni Jayalal, Head, Department of Natural Resources delivered the keynote address at the International Conference on Microbial Bioprospecting towards Sustainable Development Goals (ICMBSDG), held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at Lovely Professional University in Punjab, India.

## Hosting ICSUSL

The Department of Natural Resources hosted the N3 Session (Networking for Nurturing the Natural Resource Sustainability) at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, held on 08<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in Colombo. The Session provided a platform for an effective panel discussion representing five prominent environmental organizations and a diverse audience from academia and corporate.



# Faculty of Applied Sciences

## Assisting School Students

The Society for Technological Studies (STS), Department of Physical Science and Technology, organized a practical academic programme for the school children in the area to develop their knowledge and laboratory skills. The event was held in December 2023.



## Community Outreach Programmes



The faculty engaged in numerous community outreach and social welfare initiatives during the second half of the year 2023. The blood donation campaign and workshops for kindergarten kids and school children were among these highlighted events. The events were organized by the Faculty welfare society and subject associations along with the four academic departments of the faculty to empower the community around the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.



# Faculty of Computing

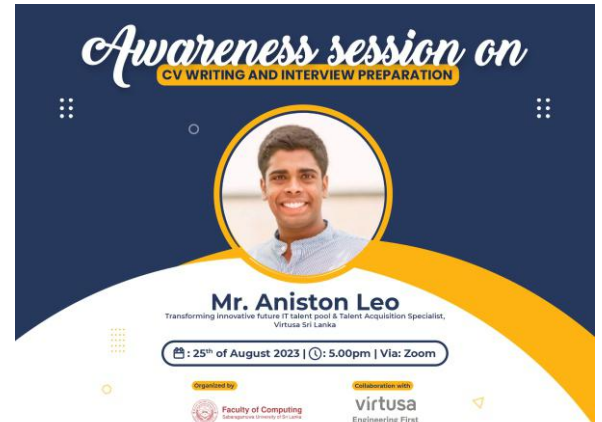
## ICARC 2024 Website

On 08<sup>th</sup> August 2023, the Vice Chancellor's Office at SUSL unveiled a centralized online platform for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing. This platform aimed to facilitate efficient information sharing, participant registration, and research submission. Moreover, it endeavored to enhance the overall conference experience by fostering seamless engagement and facilitating interaction among participants, organizers, and stakeholders.



## Leading to Internships

Mr. Aniston Leo, an expert in cultivating innovative IT talent and specializing in Talent Acquisition at Virtusa Sri Lanka, conducted an online lecture on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The session aimed to equip students with essential skills for excelling in their upcoming internship opportunities. It covered practical knowledge and techniques for crafting compelling resumes, preparing for successful interviews, and developing proficiency in professional presentations.



## Selenium and Web Automation



A webinar to introduce a diverse toolset that goes beyond the theoretical knowledge of Web Automation was held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 with contribution of the guest speaker, Ms. Oshadhi Nilaweera, Associate Technical Lead QA, Madmobile (pvt) Ltd. The webinar intended to provide students with the confidence needed to effectively navigate the dynamic world of web automation using Selenium by creating a thorough grasp of industry practices and providing them with a strong skill set.

# Faculty of Computing

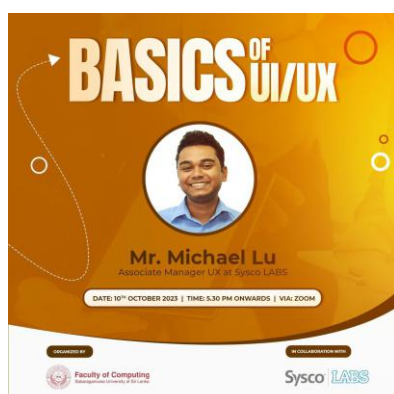
## Rising Technologies and Projects



A webinar titled "Importance of Undergraduate Projects & Use of Emerging Technologies and Trends" took place on 01<sup>st</sup> September 2023. The main aim was to educate students on the significance of undergraduate projects and to provide them with the skills needed for success in these endeavors. The session was led by Mr. Laksiri Balasuriya, Lead Consultant-Heading Capacity Development at Virtusa Sri Lanka.

## Professional Skills Development

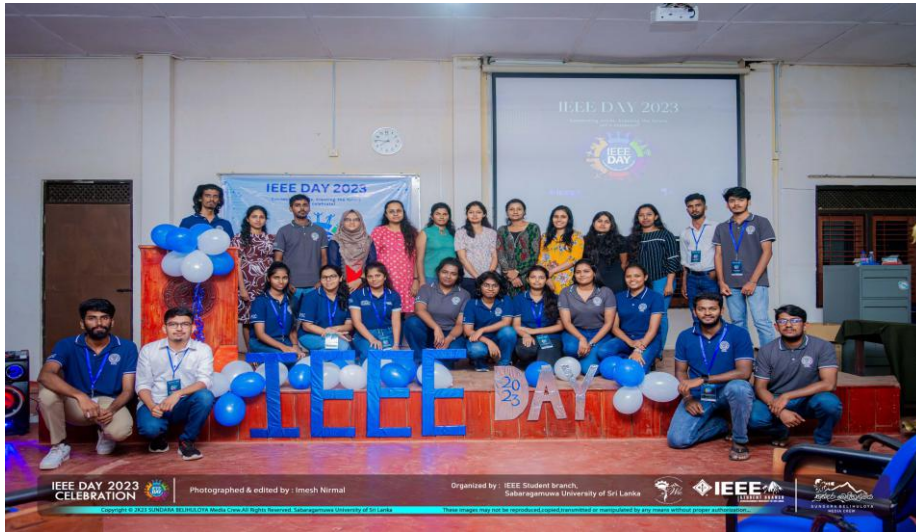
Mr. Michael Lu, Associate Manager UX at Sysco Labs, led an online seminar. The session provided participants with a comprehensive grasp of concepts, principles, and best practices for creating user-friendly digital interfaces. It aimed to not only strengthen participants' theoretical understanding but also to equip them as proficient professionals in a competitive market. Additionally, the seminar encouraged students to stay updated on emerging UI/UX trends, such as augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and voice interfaces. This event took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Meanwhile, The Sri Lanka Association of Software and Service Companies (SLASSCOM), in collaboration with the Faculty of Computing at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, conducted a professional skills development programme on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at the Mini Auditorium of the Faculty of Applied Sciences. .



The primary objectives of this programme were to help students develop new skills to advance their careers, build good workplace relationships, and improve their job performance. The programme's rigorous emphasis on refining critical talents, such as problem-solving, teamwork, and communication, resulted in quantifiable gains in the participants' professional capacities. These observable results extended beyond improved personal skill sets, materializing as increased team effectiveness and a noticeable increase in workplace productivity.

# Faculty of Computing

## IEEE Day 2023



The IEEE Student Branch of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka celebrated IEEE Day with the mission to "Leverage Technology for a Better Tomorrow." The event was held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at the NLH Hall, Sabaragamuwa University.

## G2C Workshop



The SLASSCOM G2C Workshop was held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, with the aim of enhancing students' employability by providing practical insights and hands-on training in project work. A group of third-year and fourth-year undergraduates from the Department of Computing and Information Systems, Faculty of Computing, participated in the event.

## ComSpective

ComSpective Volume 3, Issue II, published by the Faculty of Computing of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, was launched in November 2023. ComSpective aims to explore and showcase world-changing sciences and technologies in computing, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. The magazine provides an excellent opportunity for individuals passionate about advancing the field to contribute to the knowledge base.

# Faculty of Geomatics

## Astronomy Camp

The Faculty of Geomatics organized an astronomy camp in collaboration with the prestigious Astronomy and Space Science section of the Department of Physics, University of Colombo on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023. Distinguished astronomy and space science experts graced the event, sharing their profound insights through captivating presentations. Participants were treated to a series of talks covering various topics, from the birth of stars to the mysteries of black holes. These enlightening sessions expanded the attendees' understanding of the universe and ignited a sense of wonder that will linger on. The curious students and astronomy lovers flocked to participate in a unique adventure across space. The programme offered the ideal balance of teaching, entertainment, and hands-on activities to cater to those with different degrees of astronomy familiarity.



## *Pirith* Chanting Programme

A tranquil and spiritually enriching event unfolded on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023, as the staff and students of the Faculty of Geomatics came together to host an exclusive overnight *Pirith* chanting programme. The *Pirith* chanting programme and morning *Heel Danaya*, arranged by the staff and students of the Faculty of Geomatics, was a testament to the power of coming together for a higher purpose. It reminded everyone in attendance of the importance of spiritual reflection and community, fostering a sense of harmony long after the last chant had been sung and the final morsel of food had been shared. Beyond its temporal scope, this event left an enduring impact on the hearts of all who participated.



# Faculty of Management Studies

## Research Awards

The Second FMS Research Awards took place on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023, at the Faculty of Management Studies. This event recognized and celebrated the remarkable contributions of staff members who excelled in research. Certificates and awards were presented in seven categories, including four prominent awards: The Dean's Award for the Best Research Performance in 2022, Early Career Researcher Award 2022, Highest Citation Award for 2022, and Highest H-Index Award for 2022.



## A Warm Welcome

A cultural show, organized by the Faculty of Management Studies was held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023.



## Evening of Relaxing

The Coffee Evening - 2023, organized by the Department of Tourism Management was held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at the courtyard of the Faculty of Management Studies.



# Faculty of Management Studies

## Summer Camp

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka hosted a Summer Camp Programme for the students from the University of Bradford, UK, from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The programme aimed to foster a rich cross-cultural learning experience by bringing together the students from different geographical locations. It sought to strengthen international collaboration and academic partnerships between SUSL and foreign universities, offer a holistic educational experience that goes beyond theoretical knowledge, and facilitate networking and relationship-building opportunities among students and staff of both institutions.



## Futurama 2023



Two workshops under "Futurama 2023" were held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, targeting Management undergraduates and A/L school students of Karagasthalawa Maha Vidhyalaya. Mr. Dhananath Fernando, CEO of the Advacata Institute, conducted the first workshop with the aim of enhancing practical knowledge of macroeconomics through expert insights. The second workshop was conducted by Ms. Navoda Indeewarie and Ms. Dulanjani Pallearachchi, lecturers from the Department of Economics and Statistics, Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages, SUSL, to enhance event organizing skills of the university undergraduates.

## Emotional Skills

A photography workshop aimed at enhancing practical skills in photography and short film making was held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for Year II Semester I undergraduates of the Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies, SUSL. In addition, a social dancing workshop was held on the same day for the same set of students.



# Faculty of Management Studies

## Collaborate with CA Sri Lanka

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) signed an MoU to strengthen university-industry collaboration. This agreement aims to expand and affirm a strong cooperative relationship in promoting collaboration in education, professional development, and research within the university. It includes opening up internship opportunities for undergraduates, awarding a gold medal to the best student in the Department of Accountancy and Finance, and granting financial assistance for students' activities.



Senior Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, Vice-Chancellor of SUSL; Mr. Sanjaya Bandara, President of CA Sri Lanka; Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies; Mrs. Lakmali Priyangika, Acting CEO of CA Sri Lanka; Prof. D. G. Dharmarathne, Head of the Department of Accountancy and Finance; Dr. Vilasini De Silva, Head of the Department of Marketing Management, along with other key representatives from CA Sri Lanka and the Department of Accountancy and Finance, participated in the event held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## A Display of Creativity

Innova 2023, an exhibition organized by the Faculty of Management Studies, was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at the faculty premises. The event was graced by the presence of the Dean, Prof. Athula Gnapala, who inaugurated the exhibition. Innova 2023 showcased a wide range of innovative projects and ideas developed by the students, reflecting their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. The exhibition served as a platform for students to present their materialized innovations, demonstrating the practical application of their academic knowledge and the faculty's commitment to fostering innovation and leadership among its students.

## Entrepreneurship Day



The Entrepreneurship Day 2023, organized by the Department of Business Management, was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the faculty premises. The primary objectives of the event included improving entrepreneurial qualities and skills among the students, fostering positive attitudes about entrepreneurial careers among the undergraduates, and providing an opportunity for innovative entrepreneurs in the surrounding areas to promote their new products to the target market.

# Faculty of Management Studies

## Astro-Tourism

A workshop on Astro-Tourism was organized by the Department of Tourism Management on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 for educating the academics and students about Astro-Tourism and Geo-Tourism through a captivating blend of multidisciplinary insights. This event was conducted by Dr. Aravinda Ravibhanu, Senior Research Scientist, CEO-Eco Astronomy, Sri Lanka.



## Case Challenge Competition



The Innovative Sustainable Case Challenge Competition, organized by the Department of Tourism Management, was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at the faculty premises. Promoting innovative and disruptive sustainable tourism strategies was one of the major objectives of this event.

## Wonders of Tourism

The Tourism and Hospitality Subject Association of the Department of Tourism Management organized a workshop titled “Embracing the Wonders of Tourism” at R/Balangoda Sri Buddha Jayanthi Central College on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The event aimed to educate the school students about the diverse aspects of tourism.



## Clean Tour

The Department of Tourism Management organized "Clean Tour: Where adventure meets cleanliness" on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to celebrate the World Tourism Day.



# Faculty of Management Studies

## Speakers of ATLAS Conference

Prof. Ushan Peiris and Mr. Namal Wijesundara represented the Faculty of Management Studies, SUSL, at the ATLAS Annual Conference 2023. The event took place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in Bad Gleichenberg, Austria. Both the SUSL academics contributed to the programme by presenting research papers during the conference.



## Safeguarding Our Environment

EcoBusiness Management undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies initiated a tree plantation programme on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to enhance the environmental awareness of both academic members and undergraduates.



## Webinar on Life Insurance

A webinar on 'Life Insurance Claims and Underwriting for Safe Living' was organized by the Year II Banking and Insurance undergraduates on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to enhance their knowledge of life insurance claims and underwriting-related practical aspects. Ms. Rupika N. Atthanayaka, Zonal Sales Manager at Arpico Insurance PLC, was the resource person for the event.



## පාරිසරික 23'



A programme to instill a sense of responsibility among participants concerning environmental conservation and sustainable practices was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Management Studies.

# China-Sri Lanka Cultural Dialogue



On 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023, an event was organized at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka to officially launch the China-Sri Lanka Cultural Dialogue. The event was graced with the honorable presence of Mr. Zhang Yingbao, Counsellor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Sri Lanka, and Senior Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, Vice-Chancellor of SUSL. Both Mr. Zhang Yingbao and Prof. Rathnayake emphasized the importance of cultural diplomacy in enhancing bilateral relations and expressed their commitment to supporting further initiatives under this dialogue. This event represented a significant step forward in the university's efforts to build international partnerships and promote global cultural awareness among its students and staff.



# Faculty of Management Studies

## Refreshing Programmes

A residential workshop on restructuring the Year II Semester I Industry Exposure Programme was held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 for the academic staff of the Department of Accountancy & Finance.



## MURS 2023

The 5<sup>th</sup> Management Undergraduates' Research Session, organized by the Faculty of Management Studies, was held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023, at the faculty premises under the theme “Moving beyond conventional wisdom for an uncontrived economy.” The event significantly contributed to young researchers and the research culture by providing a valuable platform for them to present their findings and engage with experienced professionals, including keynote speakers and industry experts. Prof. Satish Kumar from the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIMN) and Mr. Asoka Bandara, Group Head of Corporate Affairs & Strategy at Maliban Group, participated as the keynote speakers.



# Faculty of Management Studies

## ICMR 2023

The 8<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary Conference of Management Researchers held at Sabaragamuwa University in Sri Lanka marked a significant milestone, focusing on the theme "Moving beyond Conventional Wisdom for an Uncontrived Economy." The conference successfully brought together scholars, researchers, and business leaders to address post-pandemic economic challenges. Distinguished keynote speakers, Prof. Nick Ashill, School of Marketing and International Business, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and Prof. Dewasiri N. Jayantha, Department of Accountancy and Finance, SUSL provided valuable insights into developing resilience capabilities and advancing management research through innovations.



A rigorous review process resulted in the inclusion of thirty-five research articles, showcasing diverse contributions. Invited sessions, including a panel discussion on policy convergence for an uncontrived economy, enriched the discourse. The commitment to global collaboration and fostering academic excellence was evident, making the 8<sup>th</sup> ICMR a comprehensive exploration of economic issues and a platform for knowledge exchange among academics. The conference took place on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at the faculty premises.



## Letter of Intent



A long-term collaboration between the Faculty of Management Studies and Talawakelle Plantations PLC commenced on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. This MoU was organized by the BIZConnect Initiative, Faculty Sustainability Cell, and EcoBiz Junior Chapter of the Faculty of Management Studies. Prof. M. Sunil Shantha, Vice Chancellor of SUSL, represented the university at the event, while Mr. Krishna Ranagala, Deputy General Manager of Sustainability & Quality Systems Development at Talawakelle Tea Estates PLC, represented the other party.

# Faculty of Management Studies

## Literature Review Workshop

A workshop on Systematic Literature Review (SLR), conducted as part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Management Undergraduates' Research Session (MURS 2023), was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023. The event aimed to demystify the process of systematic literature review in business management, a critical component in the research journey that often poses challenges even for seasoned researchers. Prof. Satish Kumar, Professor in Finance and the Chairperson of the PhD Programme at the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIMN), contributed to the event as the resource person.



# Faculty of Medicine

## ඉසිවර ස්වර 2023

The Aesthetic Society of the Faculty of Medicine hosted the *Pedura* Musical Programme on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023, at the Faculty of Medicine. This event was thoughtfully organized with the aim of fostering meaningful relationships and promoting camaraderie among the medical students of the faculty and the esteemed consultants of Teaching Hospital Ratnapura. The evening was a celebration of music and culture, providing a platform for students and professionals alike to connect in a relaxed and creative environment. Through this initiative, the Aesthetic Society sought to strengthen the bonds within the medical community, ensuring a harmonious and collaborative atmosphere for all.



# Faculty of Medicine

## Varsity Battles-2023

The Capital Market Quiz Competition, organized by the University Business Linkage Cell (UBLC), was held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023, at the Faculty of Management Studies. Teams representing the Faculty of Medicine displayed exceptional knowledge, clinching both first and third places in the competition. The winners of this inter-faculty competition are now eligible to participate in the upcoming inter-university quiz competition.



## Youth Emerge Quiz Competition



The Professor Carlo Fonseka Challenge Trophy 2023, an esteemed inter-university quiz competition organized by the Physiological Society of Sri Lanka, took place on 05<sup>th</sup> August 2023, at Kotelawala Defense University Hospital. The competition saw vibrant participation from various universities, with each team demonstrating impressive knowledge and skill. The team representing the Faculty of Medicine, SUSL, showcased exceptional talent and was successfully selected for the semifinal round.

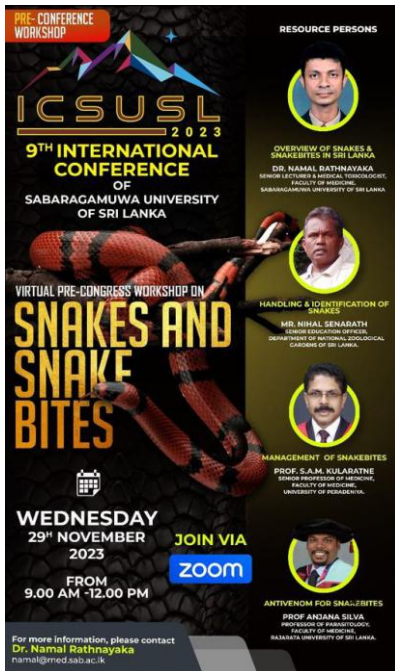
## Pre-Conference Insights



A pre-conference event to the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, titled “What is Driving Cancer?”, was held on 08<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the Faculty of Medicine. The event focused on highlighting the cellular and molecular aspects of cancer biology, including imaging the tumor microenvironment, circulating tumor cells, leukemia and blood stem cells, and breast cancer epigenetics. A number of local and international specialists and consultants contributed to the event, making it a highly informative and successful programme.

# Faculty of Medicine

## Snakes and Snake Bites

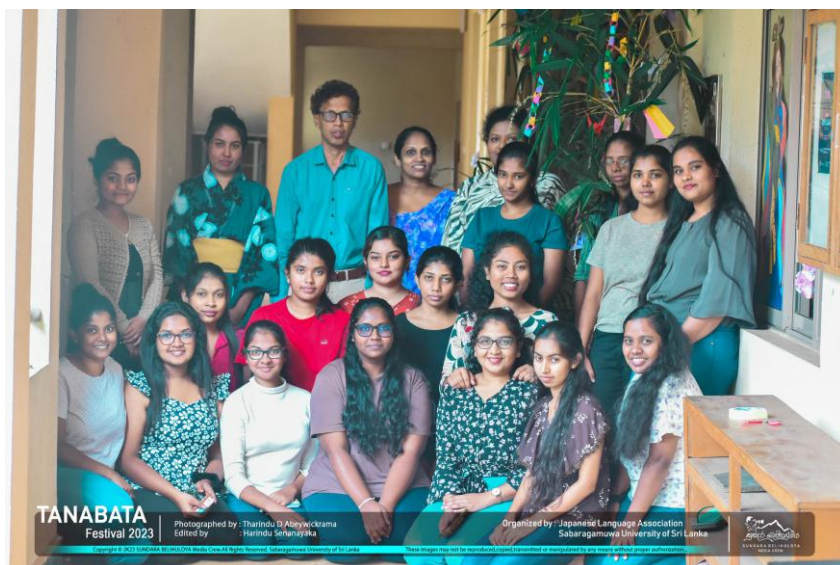


Another pre-conference event to the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 via online. Improving awareness of snakes and snake bites in Sri Lanka was the major focus of the event. Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya; Prof. Anjana Silva, Faculty of Medicine, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka; Dr. Namal Rathnayaka, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, SUSL; Mr. Nihal Senarath, Senior Education Officer, Department of National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka contributed as resource persons of the event.

# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Star Festival

The Tanabata Festival, also known as the Star Festival, was celebrated on 05<sup>th</sup> July 2023, with the aim of introducing students to the rich traditions and cultural significance of this beloved Japanese festival. The event provided an opportunity for students to learn about the customs and intricate decorations associated with Tanabata, fostering a deeper appreciation for Japanese culture and its unique festive practices.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Japanese Study Tour

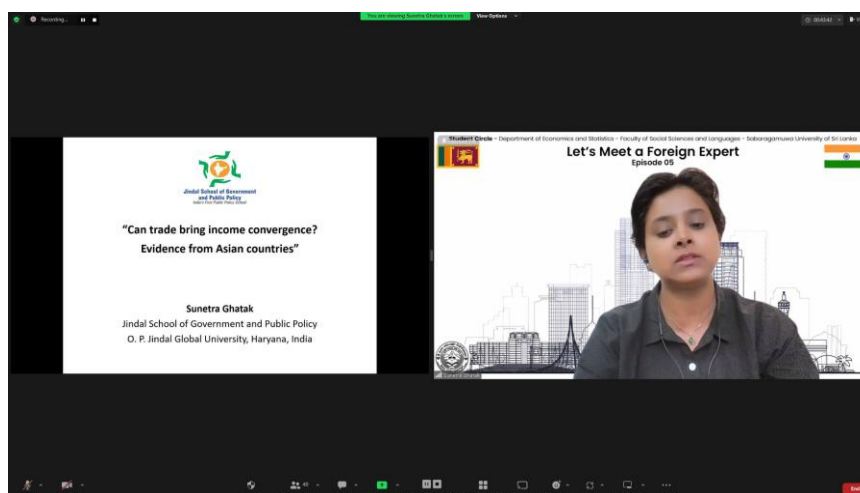


A study tour was organized for third-year students majoring in Japanese. The objectives of the event were to provide exposure to the Japanese working environment, improve communication skills, and help students understand the cultural values of the Japanese community. The tour also offered practical experience in table manners, eating habits, and the cultural significance of Japanese cuisine. The event, held on 07<sup>th</sup> July 2023, was led by Ms. Yuka Minami, a JICA volunteer from the Kegalle Nature Center; Mr. Noguchi, Deputy Director of JICA Sri Lanka; Ms. Miho Katayama, Volunteer Coordinator; Mr. Chaminda Ranasingha, Programme Coordinator; and Ms. June Mori, a JICA volunteer.



## Exploring Economic Dynamics

The fifth episode of 'Silver Portal,' organized by the Students' Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics, took place on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The primary objective of this event was to deepen the understanding of the economic relationship between trade and income convergence. Dr. Sunetra Ghatak, Associate Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana, India, served as the guest speaker and delivered an insightful presentation on the topic, "Can Trade Bring Income Convergence?." The event provided valuable perspectives and fostered engaging discussions on this crucial economic issue.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Industry Insight

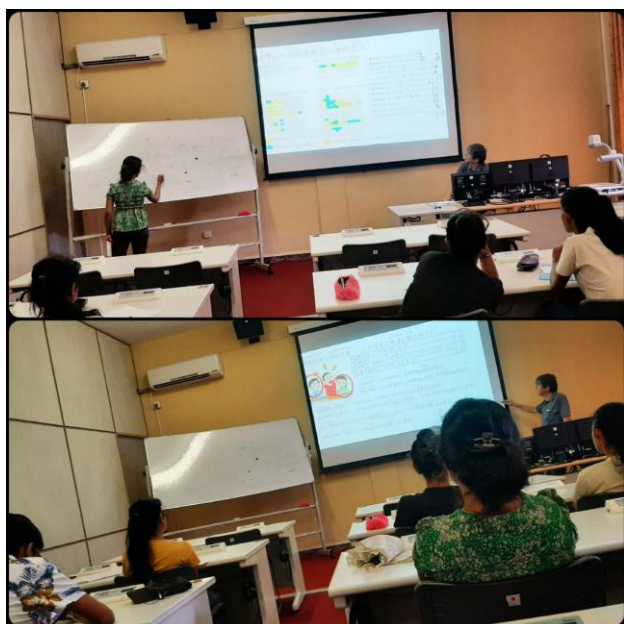
The Students' Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics organized an event on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023, to raise awareness among students of the intricacies of quality assurance and its critical role in the ever-evolving IT landscape. This event served as the inaugural episode of the 'Industry Insight' programme. On the same day, a second episode on 'Front-End Development' was held for those interested in exploring this topic further.



Following the successful launch, subsequent episodes of the programme were conducted on 03<sup>rd</sup> October, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023. These sessions covered a range of topics, including 'UI/UX Designing,' 'Software Engineering,' 'Professional CV and Interview Preparation,' and 'Careers in Banking and Financial Sectors,' respectively. Each episode provided valuable insights, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the complexities of their chosen fields.

## Grammar from an Expert

A guest lecture on "Japanese Grammar" was conducted by Prof. Miyagishi Tetsuya from Hiroshima University, Japan, on 06<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at the Japanese Laboratory, SUSL. The primary objectives of the programme were to provide in-depth knowledge of Japanese grammar patterns and to demonstrate their practical applications.



## 3GAGA HEADS Show

The Japanese comedy group 3GAGA HEADS performed a lively comedy show at the faculty premises on 09<sup>th</sup> September 2023, offering students a unique insight into modern Japanese humor and culture. The event also provided an excellent opportunity for students to engage with the comedians, exchange ideas, and deepen their understanding of contemporary Japanese culture.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Passing the Torch

The Annual General Meeting 2023 of the Students' Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics was held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This meeting marked the official transition of responsibilities to a new leadership team. The gathering provided an opportunity to celebrate past successes and set the stage for continued growth and innovation within the Students' Circle.



## A Short Video Contest



The Students Circle of the Department of English Language Teaching organized a short video contest throughout October 2023, providing a dynamic platform for students to showcase their communication and storytelling skills. Beyond the immediate educational benefits, the event also played a significant role in enhancing the social media presence of both the university and the faculty. Through this initiative, the Students Circle effectively fostered a spirit of creativity, collaboration, and digital literacy among the participants.

## Japanese Film Culture

A Japanese Film Festival, held from 02<sup>nd</sup> to 04<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at the Main Auditorium of SUSL, aimed to introduce university students to Japanese films and highlight various societal issues depicted in them, integrating these themes into the academic syllabus for discussion. The expected outcomes of the event included increased interest in Japanese-language films, improved ability to answer assignment questions accurately, and a growing popularity of Japanese films among students.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Celebrating Excellence

The second Certificate Awarding Ceremony, organized by the Students' Circle of the Department of Economics and Statistics, was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at the Prof. J.W. Dayananda Somasundara Auditorium. The event honored and celebrated the achievements of the students in the department for the 2022/2023 academic year. Certificates were awarded to the students for their active participation in and contributions to the Students' Circle. The ceremony was a resounding success and provided a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the students in the Department of Economics and Statistics.



## Launching Subject Glossaries

On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023, a comprehensive set of glossaries was launched, developed by a team of experienced faculty members in collaboration with subject experts from various universities was launched. This initiative was part of the AHEAD Project and encompasses key disciplines including Economics, Statistics, and Information and Communication Technology. The glossaries are designed to be a valuable resource for first year students, offering clear and concise definitions of essential terms and concepts in these fields. By providing a thorough understanding of fundamental terminology, these glossaries aim to support students in navigating their courses and enhance their overall learning experience.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## 90's Music Night

On the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the Students Circle of the Department of English Language Teaching hosted a vibrant musical event at the departmental premises. The primary goal of the event was to foster better interaction and camaraderie among the students within the faculty. In addition to strengthening bonds, the event aimed to enhance the students' English-speaking skills through informal and engaging activities. By participating in this event, students also had the opportunity to develop team spirit and collaboration in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. A key highlight of the evening was the celebration of music from the 1990s, which provided a nostalgic and uplifting atmosphere for everyone present. The carefully curated playlist featured iconic hits from the decade, evoking memories and creating a sense of shared cultural heritage.



## Indian Food Feast

The Indian Food Stall and Mehendi Feast 2023, organized by the 'Guldastha Society' of the Hindi Language Department, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, aimed to encourage students to learn about and appreciate the customs and traditions of Indian culture. The event was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



## Postcolonial Literature



The workshop titled "Literature, Culture, and the Individual" was organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in collaboration with the Department of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Staff Development Centre, SUSL. Dr. J.K.C. Dissanayake, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Languages, served as the resource person for the event.

# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Academic Illuminations

An informative lecture on "Reference Management Tools" was conducted by Dr. U.S. Thathsarani, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Statistics at SUSL. The lecture aimed to provide undergraduates with a thorough understanding of various tools and techniques for effectively managing academic references and citations. By equipping participants with necessary skills, the lecture sought to enhance their research productivity and ensure accuracy in their academic work. The event took place on 07<sup>th</sup> November 2023. A second lecture of the same series was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 on the topic: "'LaTeX for Academic Writing'" to introduce essential commands and syntax of LaTeX, enabling students to efficiently create high-quality documents with complex formatting, mathematical notations, and references.



## Learning Japanese

Ms. Minami Munakata, a Japanese language expert from the Japan Foundation and a Volunteer Lecturer at the University of Kelaniya, conducted two guest lectures on "Japanese Culture" and "Japanese Media" on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, respectively. The participants were expected to gain a deeper understanding of Japanese culture, engage in communication with an expert native Japanese speaker, and improve their ability to recognize new vocabulary and pronunciation through learning from a native teacher.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## Literature Review Workshop



A workshop on "Writing the Literature Review" was conducted by Prof. Hiniduma Sunil Senevi from the Department of Languages on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023. Participants explored the intricacies of crafting impactful literature reviews, gaining valuable insights into synthesizing research, identifying critical themes, and structuring a compelling narrative. By the end of the workshop, they had a newly found confidence in their ability to construct literature reviews that make a lasting impression.

## Diwali

The Diwali Celebration 2023, organized by the 'Guldastha Society' of the Hindi Language, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages. The event aimed to use Diwali as a platform for cross-cultural learning while promoting understanding and respect, reflecting the globally recognized spirit of the festival.



## Enhancing Academic Writing

A workshop to educate fourth-year students on scientific document formatting and enhance their academic writing skills was conducted by Ms. Ashani Maxworth, Department of English Language Teaching. Participants immersed themselves in the intricacies of presenting research with precision and clarity. The workshop also aimed to address common challenges and demystify the complexities of formatting academic documents. The event was held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.



# Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages

## China-Sri Lanka Cultural Exchange

A delegation from Huanggang Normal University, led by Prof. Chen Xianguin, Secretary of the Party Committee of the university, visited Sabaragamuwa University to officially inaugurate the Research Center for China-Sri Lanka Cultural Exchange and Economic Development. During the visit, the two universities discussed the future development of the Confucius Classroom at SUSL, aiming to further strengthen the strategic partnership and friendship between China and Sri Lanka for the mutual benefit of both nations.



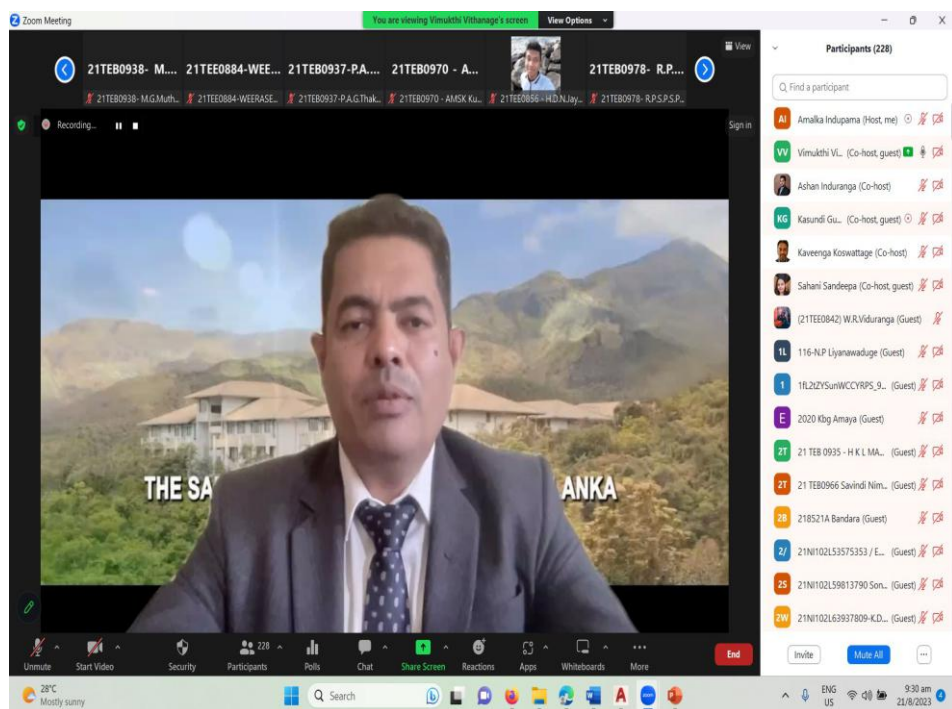
Additionally, the event included the awarding of the Chinese Ambassador's Scholarship 2023 to students from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages and the renewal of the MoU between the China International Education Foundation, Huanggang Normal University, and SUSL. This significant event unfolded on 07<sup>th</sup> December 2023, marking a milestone in the ongoing collaboration between the two nations.



# Faculty of Technology

## Orientation 2023

The inaugural session of the orientation programme for the 2021/2022 batch was successfully concluded on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 via online mode. The Vice Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Heads of the Departments, Registrar, academic staff, supportive academic staff, and non-academic staff participated in this event, contributing to its success.



## Gender-Based Violence

A workshop on “Sexual and Gender-Based Violence,” organized by the Faculty Gender Equity and Equality Cell and the Centre for Gender Equity and Equality (CGEE) at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, was successfully held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at the Staff Development Centre. Emeritus Prof. Kumudu Wijewardhane from the Faculty of Medicine, SUSL served as the resource person for the workshop. The workshop targeted at the staff members of the university.



# Faculty of Technology

## Beginning of an Accommodation Complex

The foundation stone for the Foreign Scholars' Accommodation Complex within the Faculty of Technology was ceremonially laid by Senior Prof. R.M.U.S.K. Rathnayake, Vice-Chancellor, SUSL, on 05<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The ceremony was held at the invitation of Prof. Kaveenga R. Koswattage, Dean of the Faculty of Technology, and was attended by academic and non-academic members of the faculty. Funded by the Asian Development Bank and constructed by ICC, the accommodation facility will feature four well-appointed rooms, a dining area, a spacious living area, and an inviting open veranda, among other amenities.



## Partnership with CodeGen

The Faculty of Technology has successfully established a collaborative partnership with CodeGen International (Pvt.) Ltd. by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). This collaboration will focus on battery research and development, particularly within the scope of CodeGen's Vega Innovations. Research efforts within the Center for Nanodevice Fabrication & Characterization (CNFC) at the Faculty of Technology, involving both faculty members and dedicated students, will be central to this developmental work. This event took place on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



# Faculty of Technology

## Personal Development

A tailored Adventure Programme designed to enhance the personal development of undergraduate students in the Faculty of Technology was held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The event was conducted by Mr. Pathum Weerakkodi, a Lecturer in the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education, SUSL, who served as a consultant under a resource person contract for the STHRD project. The students participated in activities such as personal development games, hill climbing, and water adventures. The programme aimed to foster both personal and professional growth among the undergraduates in the Faculty of Technology. Mr. Aruna Jayasena and Mr. Anuradha Bandara provided support to ensure its success.



## වෛකල 2023

The annual faculty music concert, ‘වෛකල 2023’ was held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the university grounds. The concert showcased the musical prowess of the undergraduates by providing a platform for both emerging and seasoned performers, highlighting the musical diversity within the community of the Faculty of Technology.



# Faculty of Technology

## Visit to RMIT and QUT

The Center for Nanodevice Fabrication and Characterization (CNFC) at the Faculty of Technology, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, recently engaged in productive discussions with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to establish future research collaborations. Prof. K.R. Koswattage, the principal investigator at CNFC, and Senior Prof. Chandana Udawatta, a CNFC member, actively participated in the discussions held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023. These discussions have the potential to lead to MoUs, creating opportunities for young lecturers to pursue postgraduate studies and fostering research fellowships for students at the Faculty of Technology.



## Exploring New Frontiers

Five promising undergraduate students from the Faculty of Technology participated in an enriching Student Exposure Programme at Meiji University, Japan, from 26<sup>th</sup> November to 02<sup>nd</sup> December 2023. Designed at the request of Prof. K.R. Koswattage, the Dean of the Faculty of Technology, the programme involved collaboration with eight advanced laboratories (Wagata Lab, Sinmyo Lab, Noguchi Lab, Watanabe Lab, Suzuki Lab, Ono Lab, Murakami Lab, and Ibuki Lab), providing unique learning opportunities and hands-on experience with advanced technology. This initiative, made possible through the collaboration with Meiji University and the Center for Nanodevice Fabrication & Characterization (CNFC), offers significant exposure and potential future collaboration opportunities for students and young academics.



# Faculty of Technology

## Igniting Research Aspirations

A workshop titled “Crafting Your Research Path: A Workshop for Beginners” was organized by the Quality Assurance Cell, Faculty of Technology, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023, at the Faculty of Technology premises. Prof. Bandula Wijay, Ambassador for Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sri Lanka, and Eng. Vimukthi Vithanage, Lecturer at the Faculty of Technology, SUSL, participated in the event as resource persons.



## Platinum Certification

The Faculty of Technology at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka has achieved a significant milestone by receiving 'Platinum' certification for its new building complex, becoming the first government university in Sri Lanka to earn this recognition. Prof. Kaveenga R. Koswattage, Dean of the Faculty, accepted the award on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023, at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Building Awards at BMICH. This achievement highlights the meticulous planning and dedication of the Faculty, the STHRD project team, ICC, and RDC, and reflects a strong commitment to sustainable practices.



## Staff Achievements

### A new Vice-President

Mr. Pathum Weerakkody, Lecturer, Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education was selected as the Vice-President of the Table Tennis Association of Sri Lanka in September 2023.



### Doctoral Degree Completion

Dr. P.D.V.M. Perera, Lecturer at the Department of Microbiology completed her PhD in Medical Microbiology at University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.



### Masters Degree Completion

Ms. P.M. Shamika, Lecturer (Probationary) at the Department of Accountancy & Finance completed her Masters at University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka.



## Student Achievements

### Meet Records

Students from the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education reported new 'Meet Records' at the Sri Lanka University Games held in August 2023.



# Student Achievements

## Inter-University Quiz Competition

The team representing the Faculty of Medicine, SUSL, emerged as the champions of the Inter-University Quiz Competition held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023, at the University of Colombo. This prestigious competition was organized by the Economics Students' Association of the University of Colombo, Faculty of Arts, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund.



The final round of the Inter-University 'Youth Emerge Quiz Competition' saw an intense face-off between the Faculty of Medicine, SUSL, and the University of Jaffna. Demonstrating remarkable knowledge and teamwork, the students from SUSL secured the first prize, underscoring their academic excellence and competitive spirit. The victory marks a significant achievement for the Faculty of Medicine at SUSL, highlighting their dedication and prowess in academic competitions. This success not only brings honor to the faculty but also enhances the university's reputation on a national level.

## Mind Plus Rapid Team Battle 2023

The Team C Sabaragamuwa, ranked third at the 'Mind Plus Rapid Team Battle 2023' Chess competition, held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Students representing the Faculty of Applied Sciences participated in the event.

## Japanese Language Speech Contest



The 34<sup>th</sup> Japanese Language Speech Contest, organized by the Japanese Language Education Association of Sri Lanka and the Japanese Embassy, was held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Ms. Dinusha Lakshani, from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, won first place in Category B and was awarded a study tour to Japan as her prize.

# Student Achievements

## Technology Day Exhibition

An exhibition stall organized by the 2017/2018 Engineering Technology Batch for the Technology Day Exhibition of Gankanda Central College, Pelmadulla was successfully conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The aim of this exhibition stall was to motivate the school students to develop their innovative mindset with Arduino platform to create interactive electronic projects. The exhibition stall consisted with an introduction to Arduino basics, explaining the components related to Arduino, Arduino projects, Games developed with Arduino, and Current research projects related to Arduino in the university.



## Undergraduate Research Competition

Research papers submitted by four final-year students in BSc Food Business Management of the Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences have been excelled at the 13<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Research Competition conducted by the Sri Lanka Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Ms. U. H. T. L. De Silva (17AGF1557) won the Bronze Medal for the Best Undergraduate Research in Agricultural Economics in Sri Lanka in 2023 for her oral presentation on *Estimating Willingness to pay for the Conservation of Madu River Ecological Resource*. Among the six best presentations, Ms. P. M. Dulanjalee (17AGF1507) was selected as one of the best research presenters for her presentation on *Assessment of Household Food Security of Small-scale Farmers in Kaluthara District*. Ms. P. M. Dulanjalee (17AGF1507) and Ms. S. N. Weerakoon (17AGF1553) were also selected as the best research presenters for their poster presentations on *Study on the Production of Dehydrated Food Items in Rathnapura District in Sri Lanka* and *Pattern of Consumption of Pulses: A Case in Colombo District in Sri Lanka* respectively.

## Venture Verse 2023,

Two students from the Department of Food Science and Technology won the First Place in Venture Verse 2023, the start-up pitch competition of the International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka held in December 2023.



# New Appointments

Prof. Athula Gnanapala has been appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies.



Prof. R.M.K.T. Rathnayake has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Physical Sciences and Technology from 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.



Dr. K.R.W.K.H. Abeywickrama has been appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages.



Dr. W.V. De Silva has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Marketing Management.



Dr. Lal Gunasekara has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Tourism Management.



Dr. Indika Gunarathna has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Economics and Statistics.



Dr. G.K.C.S. De Silva has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Languages.



Dr. T.C. Kananke has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Food Science and Technology from 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.



# Promotions



Dr. Ranmalee Bandara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Surveying and Geodesy, was promoted to the post of Professor.



Mr. G.L.S. Galgamuwa, Lecturer (Unconfirmed) of the Department of Parasitology, was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Dr. P.D.V.M. Perera, Lecturer (Probationary) of the Department of Microbiology, was promoted to the post of Lecturer.



Ms. J.H.A.W.N. Hettiarachchi, Lecturer (Probationary) of the Department of Marketing Management, was promoted to the post of Lecturer (Confirmed).



Ms. M.S.H. Rathnasiri, Lecturer (Probationary) of the Department of Marketing Management, was promoted to the post of Lecturer (Confirmed).

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**Prof. M. Sunil Shantha**

The Vice Chancellor

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

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Centre for Research and Knowledge  
Dissemination

## **Acknowledgement**

Prof. B. T. G. Samantha Kumara

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 of the SUSL, in the Newsletter**

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

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

Tel- 045 2280013 |Fax- 045 2280013

## The University Day Celebrations

The 28<sup>th</sup> University Day of SUSL is set to be celebrated with pride on 02<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024, at the university premises. The event shall be graced by the esteemed presence of the Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, Deans of the faculties, Heads of departments, and members of the Academic, Administrative, and Non-Academic staff, along with the students.

During this momentous occasion, the university shall also recognize the invaluable contributions made by members of the staff, whose dedication has played a pivotal role in uplifting the university's standards and ensuring its sustainability. The University Day celebration shall encompass several sessions dedicated to honoring these efforts through a series of awards.

The awards ceremony shall include Long Service Awards, which recognize staff members for their enduring commitment, and Service Appreciation Awards for the Academic, Administrative, and Non-Academic staff who have demonstrated exceptional dedication. Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor's Special Appreciation Awards for the year 2023 shall be presented to those whose remarkable contributions have been particularly noteworthy. The ceremony shall also honor the Best Researchers of 2023, acknowledging their groundbreaking work and innovation, as well as the Best Student of 2023, celebrating outstanding academic excellence. Furthermore, the Best Sportsman and the Best Sportswoman awards for 2023 shall be presented to recognize and commend the exceptional athletic achievements. Overall, the 28<sup>th</sup> University Day promises to be a grand celebration of commitment, excellence, and the continued pursuit of greatness at SUSL.



# NEWSLETTER SUSL



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