

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 2

WAY FORWARD

FOR A SMART UNIVERSITY



CONTENTS



PAGE 1

STUDENTS' ANNUAL
SYMPOSIUM

PAGE 2

COLLABORATION WITH
THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

PAGE 3

MOU WITH SPICE LAB

PAGE 4

ANNUAL RESEARCH
SESSION

PAGE 5

PARTNERING WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

PAGE 6

CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM

6TH SABARAGAMUWA SOCIAL SCIENCES & LANGUAGES STUDENTS' ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The inaugural session of the 6th Sabaragamuwa Social Sciences & Languages Students' Annual Symposium (SSLAS) was held on the 17th December 2020 in the Faculty auditorium. Rajiva Wijesinha, Professor Emeritus and Kasturi Chellaraja Wilson, The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Hemas Holding PLC, participated in the session as the Keynote Speaker and Guest of Honour respectively.

Approximately 250 undergraduates (4th Year) presented their research findings virtually at different sessions. Nearly 150 attended the inaugural session physically which included the university academics from all the faculties and administrators.

This forum provided the students with an opportunity to (a) share their research findings and discuss the implications of them with academics within and across disciplines, peers and the greater community (b) enhance their knowledge and soft skills that may be useful for their future career, and (c) publish their abstracts in the 6th SSLAS abstract book. The Faculty gave broader publicity to the event through the SSLAS website and other channels prior and after the symposium.



COLLABORATION WITH THE SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL IN ADDRESSING THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE PROVINCE

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka entered into collaboration with the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council towards a number of significant development projects in the Province and at the inception, several key areas of exertion have been identified.

Knowledge transfer in the discipline of information technology from the university side to the necessary segments in the Provincial Council was discussed. This will facilitate effective and efficient implementation of the e-government policy in the Province. Proposed collaborative work on economic development projects for the Province are aimed at the development of agriculture, inland fishery and livestock industries, and are sustainably harnessing the potentials of nature-based tourism. Improving the province's annual inland fishery harvest from 1700 MT to 10000 MT is initially targeted. Research focus was drawn on conservation of the endemic flower species *Dendrobium maccarthiae* ("Vesak orchid"), which is the provincial flower of Sabaragamuwa and has currently become an endangered species, owing to the loss of habitat.

The Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council wishes to expand the current collaboration further into the areas of health, education, environment, transport, construction and industrial development in the future. The new initiative reflects the enthusiasm of SUSL in continuing



to be a center of excellence in research and knowledge dissemination and play a vital role in the development of the Province in particular, and the nation at large. The inaugural meeting was held on the 04th of December, 2020, at the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council, Ratnapura, with the distinguished participation of Hon. Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, the Governor of the Sabaragamuwa Province and Prof. Udaya Rathnayaka, the Vice Chancellor, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Mrs. Ranjani Jayakody, Chief Secretary, Mr. Prabath Udakara, Secretary, Chief Ministry, Mr. Anura Hemakumara, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, and Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, Dr. Rasangi Sabaragamuwa, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Mr. R.L. Dangalle, Director, Centre for Computer Studies, Dr. Kapila Kumara, Senior lecturer, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Mr. Mr. M.C.N. Jayasooriya, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Applied Sciences also participated in the event.

The University Business Linkage Cell of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka signed an MoU with SPICE LAB BY CEYLON (Pvt) Ltd, Kahangama, Rathnapura, and the official ceremony was held on 16 th December 2020 at the board room of the Vice Chancellor's office of the University.

The MoU mainly focused on the commercialization of the instant low glycemic soup mix developed by the Food Science and Natural Products research team of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. This product was especially developed as a quick and healthy meal for people with diabetes mellitus and the research was funded by the Research Innovation and Commercialization (RIC) grant of the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) program.

SPICE LAB BY CEYLON (Pvt) Ltd is owned by a young group of Sri Lankan entrepreneurs with the objective of creating a business to deliver the best Ceylon natural products to the international market and to popular the Sri Lankan authentic food products internationally and extend the business worldwide.



MOU WITH SPICE LAB BY CEYLON LTD

The event was graced by the, Prof Udaya Rathnayaka the Vice Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Also, Dr. Tharanga Samarasekara, Director of Spice Lab by Ceylon Ltd, Ms Sashikala Jathunga, Head, Research and development, Spice Lab by Ceylon Ltd, Ms. Thushani Rajapaksha, Legal officer, Spice Lab by Ceylon Ltd, Prof. Indunil Dayaratne, the Director of the University Business Linkage Cell, and Dr. Rasangi Sabaragamuwa, the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences of SUSL participated in this event.

10th ANNUAL RESEARCH SESSION



The 10th Annual Research Session of Sabaragamuwa University was held on 16th December 2020 at the Faculty of Geomatics premises of the university. This is an annual event organized by the Centre for Research and Knowledge Dissemination (CRKD) with the intention of providing all academics, postgraduate & undergraduate students attached to different faculties of the university with a solid platform to share their latest research findings with the scientific community. In addition, this offers a very good opportunity to the participants to present their research works to a wider community of academics and, at the same time, they have been given a very good platform to get comments and suggestions from senior academics of the university for making further improvements in their researches.

Due to the prevailing pandemic situation in the country, this time, it was organized as a virtual event. Prof. Rangika Halwathura, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, participated virtually as the Key note Speaker and made his speech on “Natural Science Vs Artificial Science”. Furthermore, Prof. Udaya Rathnayake, Vice Chancellor, Sabaragamuwa University was the Chief Guest of this event. However, around 50 academic staff members and other distinguished guests only participated physically for this session due to pandemic limitations.



This multi-disciplinary session was contributed by the innovative discoveries of academic disciplines such as Applied Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Geomatics, Management, Medicine, and Social Sciences & Languages. Further, it was aligned with the Graduate Colloquium organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the university. This year, the ARS was encompassed with the presentations under three categories mainly. Firstly, there were 21 presentations from the academic staff members of the university who have completed their post-graduate researches and projects in local and international universities and research institutions. Furthermore, 30 postgraduate students presented their research findings and proposals to this gathering in the Graduate Colloquium. Also, the poster session arranged specially for the under-graduate students was consisted with 17 virtual presentations. Also, all the abstracts were published in the "Abstracts of the Annual Research Session, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka" which has been registered as an international standard publication under the ISSN 2756-9306.

PARTNERING WITH THE CENTRAL CULTURAL FUND AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT SITES OF SRI LANKA



Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka commenced an important collaborative programme with the Central Cultural Fund and the Department of Archaeology in order to formulate a digital map of the archaeological monuments across the island using novel technical tools. Digitalized mapping of archaeologically significant sites is of immense importance in multiple ways, including assisting in proper recording of such sites and their preservation, appreciating their heritage values, and in its contribution for national economy through the development of sustainable tourism. The programme aims at forming a dedicated page in the web based application for each of the archaeological monument enhancing their



visibility from any location in the world. The inaugural project under the above programme is currently being implemented centered on the “Ramba Viharaya”, a place with a historical and an archaeological value, in the Hambantota District, and will subsequently be expanded other districts in the country as well. The academic staff and the undergraduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages are contributing to this programme, with the support from the Faculty of Geomatics, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka receives constant cooperation from the University of Ruhuna in this inaugural project. The programme was facilitated by Mr. Sunil Shantha Weerasekara, member of the Council, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka who also renders his service to the Archaeological Advisory Committee, Department of Archaeology, Sri Lanka. The programme is coordinated by Dr. W.M.J. Welgama, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, with the technical expertise being rendered by Dr. Saman Koswatte Senior Lecturer, and Dr. Milinda Piyasena Faculty of Geomatics.



Third Board Meeting of the Confucius Classroom, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was held on 09th December 2020 at 2.00 p.m at the Board Room of the Vice Chancellor Office with the participation of Prof Udaya Rathnayaka, The Vice Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and the Chairman of the Board, Prof. (Dr) Zheng Youjie , The Chinese Director, Dr Sampath Fernando, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages , Dr. Manoj Ariyaratne, the Local Director, Dr Sanjeeth Rathnayaka , Head , Department of Languages, Mrs R.A.R .P Maduwanthi, Chinese Program coordinator and all the members including Prof. Cheng Cailan and Prof . Yan Li. Mr Kamal Gunawardena, Act. Registrar, Mr. W.A.M.P Senadeera Act. Bursar and Mrs Y.S Chandrasekara, the Secretary of the Board were present at this meeting.

THIRD BOARD MEETING OF THE CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM



Dr. Sampath Fernando, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages was appointed as the new Local Director of the Classroom as the tenure of service of Dr Ariyaratne , the Local director was over. The activities proposed for the enhancement of the Chinese language education in the Faculty and in the school system in the Province were discussed. It was discussed to develop the University Arts Center with the financial support from the Confucius classroom fund.



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