



# Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

# NEWSLETTER

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## Opening of the New CDCE Building





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## Celebrating New Year 2023 and Long Service Recognition at Rajarata University, Sri Lanka



The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka commenced the year 2023 with a significant event on January 2nd, 2023. This memorable occasion witnessed the active participation of the Vice Chancellor, academic and non-academic staff members, as well as the students. The Vice Chancellor, along with the staff, took an oath, pledging their commitment to provide effective and productive service throughout the year. Following this, the university hosted a Long Service Award ceremony, which was followed by a New Year celebration. These events aimed to recognize and express appreciation for the university's academic and non-academic staff members who have dedicated 25 years of service to the university system.

### The University Business Linkage Cell of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka records another Milestone

The University Business Linkage Cell (UBLC) of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) successfully completed phase IV evaluation on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 at the University Premises. The RUSL UBLC is the sixth national University to complete the Phase 04 evaluation administered by the AHEAD Unit of the University Grants Commission.

UBLC has presented all completed actions under phase IV with strong evidence and the general progress of the UBL for future sustainability. All AHEAD grant winners also presented the progress and outcomes achieved in the research projects.

For successful on-time completion of the UBLC Phase 04, the RUSL UBLC will be granted an additional 02 million rupees to carry out its functions smoothly.

Mr. Prasanna S. Ekanayake, Attorney-at-Law, E W Associated, and Mr. Sanjewa Gunawardena, Executive Director, E B Creasy & CO PLC, Darley Butler & Co Ltd, Laxapana Batteries PLC joined as evaluators of the phase 04 evaluation along with AHEAD Lead academic Professor Thusitha Abeytunga. The Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara delivered the welcome speech, and Dr. Manoj Samarathunga, the Director of the University Business Linkage Cell, presented the progress of the UBLC. The event was also graced by the presence of Deans, the Librarian, Heads of Departments, Professors, Directors of University Centers, Directors of the North Central Province Chamber of Commerce and Commercial partners, etc.





## Opening of the New Center for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE) Building



On January 20, 2023, a significant milestone was achieved as Rajarata University officially unveiled its state-of-the-art Center for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE) building. The event was graced with the presence of distinguished individuals, including Senior Professors Sampath Amarathunge, Chairman, and Chandana P. Udawatte, Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission. Representing the RUSL administration were Chancellor Royal Pandith Eethalawatuunuwewe Gnanathilake Thero, Vice Chancellor Professor (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Deans of Faculties, the Acting Registrar, Acting Bursar, Director of CDCE, and various other officials.

The CDCE at RUSL plays a pivotal role in offering UGC-approved study programs that encompass three external degree programs, four diplomas, and three certificate-level courses. These programs are tailored to cater to the educational needs of adult learners who seek further education but may not have secured admission to conventional universities. Currently, the center serves over 4,500 students, and its journey began with the relocation to Anuradhapura after its initial establishment on the grounds of Mihinthale.



## MOU with the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance

To enhance the capacity of officers within the Ministry of Local Governance in the North Central Province, the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance (SLILG) have formalized their collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This partnership aims to offer a series of five (05) Certificate courses. The

Faculty of Agriculture of Rajarata University will play a pivotal role as the coordinating faculty for these certificate courses. Moreover, the faculty will contribute its expertise in the relevant subject matter areas.

The signing of the MoU was attended by Dr. Suratissa Dissanayaka, Chief Executive Officer/Director of SLILG, who was joined by two other SLILG officials. The event also saw the participation of prominent individuals, including Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Prof. G.V.T.V. Weerasuriya, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, and the course coordinators, namely Assoc. Prof. D.M.S.H. Dissanayaka, Dr. S. N. Dissanayake, and Mrs. W. Dilrikhi.





### The Research Excellence Awards Ceremony - “Appraising the outstanding performance of RUSL Researchers.”

On January 20, 2023, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka hosted the Research Excellence Awards Ceremony for 2022 organised by the University Research and Award Committee. The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka's academic staff members who are outstanding in research, creativity, and scholarly works are the focus of the awards ceremony, which aims to acknowledge, respect, encourage, and reward them. The university hopes that these awards will encourage staff members to participate in teaching and research activities actively. Additionally, these accolades will inspire and motivate junior staff members to participate in research projects that will raise the university's standing on a national and international scale. Additionally, these accolades will boost and support team-based research initiatives both inside and outside the institute.

For the second time in 2022, a ceremony was conducted to honour research excellence, aiming to acknowledge researchers and inspire enthusiasm for future academic pursuits. Notable figures in attendance included Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman, and Senior Prof. Chandana P. Udawatte, Vice-Chairman of the University Grants Commission, along with Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice-Chancellor of Rajarata University who graced the event as the guests of honour.

Prof. Manjula Ranagalage of the Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities received the renowned golden award once in a lifetime. The Most Outstanding Senior Researcher and Young Researcher awards went to Dr. DMSLB Dissanayake (Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities) and Dr. Devarajan Rathish (Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences), respectively. Professors Nimal Shantha Abeysingha and Anjana Silva were recognized with awards for their exceptional contributions as senior researchers in the Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences, respectively.

The Most Outstanding Young researcher of each faculty award went to Dr. Prasad Jayasooriya (Faculty of Technology), Dr. Janith Warnasekara (Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences), Dr. Jayaruwani Fernando (Faculty of Agriculture), and Dr. P.R. Weerathunga (Faculty of Management Studies). A total of 104 awards were distributed among qualified candidates from both the university and faculty level.



### Student and Staff Mobility 2022-2028, between RUSL and Cankiri Karatekin University: Turkey

On March 14, 2023, Dr. Selim Buyrukoglu, a lecturer at Ankara Karatekin University with a focus on artificial intelligence (computer science), paid a visit to the faculty of technology at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Cankiri Karatekin University of Turkey collaborated on the Erasmus+ Programme's Key Action 1: Higher Education Student and Staff Mobility Inter-Institutional Agreement 2022–2028 to make this trip possible. This is the first international mobility as per the MOU signed after establishing the University International Relations Unit.

During his visit, an interactive workshop on employing hybrid machine-learning methods for numerical data analysis was held with the staff and students. In addition, he discussed the results of his artificial intelligence research and the viability of transferring those results to other areas of study. Throughout this visit, he took part in a number of conversations in small groups with the faculty and students. Also, discussions on potential future partnerships with regard to research and teaching at both Universities were held. With 85 attendees, the workshop was a smashing success.





### Top 20 Researchers of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has meticulously selected 20 outstanding researchers, based on their research publications of the year 2022. The primary objectives of this endeavor are to acknowledge, appreciate, inspire, and pay tribute to the academic staff members at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka who have demonstrated exceptional excellence in research, innovation, and scholarly contributions. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the distinguished top 20 researchers of 2022 at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.





### The Inaugural Ceremony of the Ph.D. in Management Program 2023 of RUSL

The first intake of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Management Degree program was inaugurated on March 7, 2023, at 11:00 am, in the University's Main Auditorium, marking a revolutionary stride in the development of the Faculty of Management Studies, of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, a premier educational institution in the North Central Province.



The Vice Chancellor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, was the chief guest at this event, along with the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies, Prof. P.M.B. Jayathilake, the Chairman of the Faculty's Higher Education Committee, Dr. HMBP Ranaweera, the Program Coordinator, Prof. K.G.A. Udaya Kumara, and senior academics from the faculty.



### Launching Ceremony of Digital Library Wall of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

On March 8, 2023, the Main Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka hosted a ceremony to officially launch the British Council's Digital Library Wall. Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice-Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mr. Orlando Edwards, Country Director of the British Council in Sri Lanka, the Librarian of the British Council, the Librarian of the university, as well as all faculty deans, academic and administrative staff members, and students attended the event.

A mobile device can access a variety of materials, including e-books, learning apps, podcasts, reports, and IELTS-related materials, by scanning the active QR codes on the digital library wall, which features illustrated wallpaper. Using apps for iOS or Android that can read QR codes, users can download the encoded content for free. The concept of "Like it, Scan it, Download it" is presented as a novel method for accessing the library's collection. Thanks to the digital wall, the extensive resources of the British Council are now accessible to students, professors, researchers, and the entire university community. This innovative facility allows the Rajarata University community to explore the world from their campus.





### Inauguration ceremony of Bachelor of Business Administration (General) External Degree

On March 26, 2023, the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka celebrated the official launch of its Bachelor of Business Administration (General) External Degree Program, Intake IX, at the Convocation Hall. This program has enrolled 657 enthusiastic students.

The event's chief guest was Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S.Ginigaddara, the Vice Chancellor of the university. Distinguished attendees included Prof. WP Wijewardena, Director of the Center for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE), and Prof. PMB Jayathilake, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies, along with department heads, academic staff, administrative personnel from both the faculty and CDCE, and non-academic staff.

This launch underlines the university's commitment to accessible and high-quality education in Sri Lanka.



### Visit of the Director Board of North Central Province Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (NCPCCIA)

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and the North Central Province Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (NCPCCIA) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in early 2021 to promote education, research, and training that will benefit both organizations and the industries in the region.

Honoring the agreement, the Board of Directors of the NCPCCIA participated in a familiarization trip to the University on May 18, 2023. The Director Board made it an opportunity to visit four Faculties including the Faculty of Agriculture, the Faculty of Applied Sciences, the Faculty of Technology, and the Faculty of Management Studies. The Director Board also met the Deans of these respective Faculties including Professor G.V. T.V. Weerasooriya, Professor. E.M.K.R.B. Edirisinghe, Dr. T.C. Bamunuarachchige, and Professor PMB Jayathilake, along with the key research teams.

After completing the familiarization visit the NCPCCIA Directors met with Prof. (Mrs) G.A.S Ginigaddara Vice-Chancellor and had a discussion regarding the Faculty visits and the possible future collaborations to strengthen the relationship between the two parties. University Business Linkage Cell organized the visit under the guidance of UBL Director, Dr. Manoj Samarathunga.

At the event, the Chamber of Commerce was represented by Director General Mr. P. B. Dissanayake, along with Directors Mrs. Shanthi Liyanage, Mr. Pradeep Kangara, Mr. Gamini Kobewatta, Mr. Mahindaratne Bandara, Mr. Salila Withanage, and Mr. Tharaka Amarasena.





## Opening Ceremony of the Students' Centre of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

The Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara was the Chief Guest at the opening of the Students Centre of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, which was completed under the AHEAD Project on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The ceremony was attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Prof. Thusitha Mendis, Prof. Janaka Gunarathna - Director/OTS, Professor E.M.S. Ekanayake - Project Coordinator, AHEAD Project of the Faculty, staff members, and students.

The centre is consisted of a cafeteria, bookstore, soft skills lab, student activities room, Faculty Quality Assurance Cell, Business Incubator, and Career Guidance and Counseling Unit for increasing student participation and encouraging undergraduate characteristics development.

The inauguration of the Students' Centre at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on April 6, 2023, was honored by the presence of Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, the Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. This significant achievement was made possible through the AHEAD Project.



## Certificate Awarding Ceremony – Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE)

The certificate awarding event for the ninth batch of academic staff members who completed the Certificate of Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE) program took place at the auditorium of the Staff Development Center. In 2022, a total of twenty academic members from all faculties of the RUSL, nine academic members from the University of Vavuniya, and two academic members from the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka successfully earned their certificates.

This significant event was graced by Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University in Sri Lanka, along with the participation of faculty Deans and Dr. Lalith Senarathna, Director of the SDC, on April 6, 2023.



## Meeting with the Rector of the Cankiri Karatekin University

In the city of Cankiri in North Central Turkey, a significant meeting occurred on April 26, 2023, at the Rector's Office. It brought together Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, the Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL), and Prof. Harun Çiftçi, the Rector of Cankiri Karatekin University. The primary agenda of their discussion revolved around strengthening collaboration between the two institutions and exploring opportunities for internationalization. This pivotal meeting also saw the presence of Dr. Manoj Samarathunga, who serves as the Director of RUSL's University Business Linkage Cell.





### US Ambassador Visits Innovative Primate Research Project in Sri Lanka

The US ambassador to Sri Lanka Mrs. Julie Chung visited the Kaludiyapokuna primate project, which is co-directed by Dr. Rajnish Vandercone of the Faculty of Applied Sciences of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka ([www.kpcrc.org](http://www.kpcrc.org)). His research focuses on identifying traits that make certain species more susceptible to anthropogenic habitat changes than others. Through his work and assistance from the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, he has been able to accommodate US Fulbright grantees and other research scholars in Sri Lanka.



### Establishment of "Rajarata University Toastmasters Club"

Rajarata University Toastmasters club (CB-28676100) was registered under Toastmasters International in March 2023. Toastmasters Club provides members valuable opportunities for its members to enhance their communication abilities, develop leadership skills, and gain confidence in leadership skills. It is a corporate club where Rajarata University staff and students can join.



### "Shramadana Campaign" at RUSL

On April 23, 2023, non-academic staff of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka collaborated with the campus's landscaping division to undertake a collective effort in cleaning the surroundings of the Mihinthale university premises and maintaining of the fences.





### Research Collaboration: *Trichoderma Virens* Culture and Solid Based Formulation of *Trichoderma Virens*

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Ceylon Agro Food Technologies (Pvt.) Limited through the University Business Linkage Cell on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka premises at Mihintale.

The MOU was signed with the objectives of collaboratively working towards research and commercialization of the *Trichoderma virens* culture and solid-based formulation of *Trichoderma virens*, a research output of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. In addition to that, both parties will collaboratively work towards further product development upon mutual agreement.

The Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Dr. Manoj Samarathunga, Director, University Business Linkage Cell, Mrs. T.D.C Priyadarshani, Principle investigator of the research, Mr. Susantha Gunawardene, Director, Ceylon Agro Food Technologies (Pvt) Ltd, Mrs. D.D.N Kularathna and Ms. B.A.P Serasignhe, R & D Executives of Ceylon Agro Food Technologies (Pvt) Ltd signed the MOU on behalf of the respective organizations. The event was also graced by the presence of Deans of other faculties, the Heads of Departments, Professors, and other invitees.



### Recognizing the Successful Commercialization of University Research

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation, the Ministry of Education recognized the successful commercialization of University research outcomes on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo.

The University Business Linkage Cell, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka recognized the respective commercial partners for the Omega -3 incorporated sauce, jam, and jelly with the Lakme Exports Lanka (Pvt) Limited and the Ayurvedic Foot Care Cream with Gunawardene Ayurveda Holdings.

The event was graced by the presence of State Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Suren Ragawan, Prof. Sampath Amarathunga, Chairman of University Grants Commission, Mr. Nihal Ranasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Ms. Chiyo Kanda, Country Manager of World Bank and Prof. Chandana Udawatte, Director of AHEAD Operation. On behalf of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Prof. Ranjith Edirisinghe, Dean Faculty of Applied Sciences, Dr. Manoj Samarathunga, Director, University Business Linkage Cell, Manager of University Business Linkage Cell, and research team members attended this event.





### Varsity Battles Capital Market Quiz Competition

“Varsity Battles Capital Market Quiz Competition” took place at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 24th May 2023. The event was jointly organized by the “Colombo Stock Exchange” and “Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka” in collaboration with the “University Business Linkage Cell” of the University. The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka entered into a “Memorandum of Understanding” with the Colombo Stock Exchange through the University Business Linkage Cell during the second quarter of 2022 to promote education and research and improve industry practices. The quiz competition is an outcome of the MOU signed and many other events were scheduled for the year.

Parallel to the Varsity Battles, a “Mini Career Fair” for undergraduate students was also organized by the Colombo Stock Exchange and Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka with the support of the “Career Guidance Unit” of the University. The career fair was enlightened with the presence of fifteen companies including Avon Pharmo Chem (Pvt) Limited, Adhitya Ayurveda (Pvt) Limited, Hatton National Bank PLC, Variosystems (Pvt) Limited, Sarath Group of Companies, Hotel Shalini, Waasala Leisure, Rajarata Hotel, Navesta Pharmaceuticals, Fidenza (pvt) Limited, ACA Management (Pvt) Limited, A4 Villa, IFS, CodeGen, and Nestle Lanka.

Representing the Faculties, 13 teams competed with each other under the guidance of the Faculty Business Linkage coordinators. The winning group and the 1st runner-up group of the Varsity Battles Capital Market Quiz Competition represented the Faculty of Applied Sciences and the 2nd runner-up group represented the Faculty of Management Studies. The winning group was awarded a cash price of Rs.75,000.00. All three-teams got qualified to face the final quiz competition which will be held in Colombo at the end of this year.

The event was graced by the presence of Vice Chancellor Prof. (Mrs) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Deans from all the Faculties, Director of University Business Linkage cell, Dr. Manoj Samarathunga, Director of University Career Guidance Unit, Dr. H.O. Wijewardhane and other Academic and non-academic staff members of the University. The event was concluded with a music event with the participation of the “Thaal” band.





### Microbiology Exhibition held on 26th of May 2023 at RUSL

An exhibition was organized by the Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The department aimed to promote research and education in biology, microbiology, and related fields, and such an event successfully served this purpose. Overall, the exhibition was a great success in promoting awareness about microbiology and its importance in our daily lives, under the guidance of Dr. P. Neelamanie Yapa, the Head of the Department of Biological Sciences, and with the support of the academic staff, non-academic staff, lab technicians with funding from the AHEAD/RUSL/DOR 079 grant. The dedicated efforts of the department's undergraduates contributed to the success of this exhibition.

The exhibition provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the importance of microbiology and its applications in various fields. Over 1,700 school students and over 700 university students participated in the event, held on May 26, 2023, at the premises of the Faculty of Applied Sciences.



### Dharma Deshana Program and Shraddha Gee Miyasiya

In parallel with Posen Poya Day, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized a 'Dharma Deshana' Program in front of the university administration building. This program was a collaborative effort between the Department of Languages of Social Sciences and Humanities and non-academic unions. The Program took place on June 1, 2023, from 4 to 5 pm on the university grounds. Participants in this unique Bana program included the Vice Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, the Registrar, academic staff, and non-academic staff.

Furthermore, a 'Poson Sraddha Gee Miyasiya' program was organized in front of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on the same day, commencing at 6 p.m. The program was orchestrated under the guidance of the University Arts Council and the Department of Languages. Participants in the program included Most Ven. Walawahengunawewe Dhammarathana Thero (Chief incumbent – Mihinthale Royal Temple), Ven. Prof. Olganwatte Chandrasiri Thero (Head of the Department of Languages, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka), Vice Chancellor Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Registrar Mr. AMGB Abeysinghe, Prof G.V.T.V. Weerasuriya (Dean/Faculty of Agriculture), Prof. Thusitha Mendis (Dean/Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities), academic staff, administrative staff, non-academic staff, and students. This was the first time that a program of this nature was conducted at the university.





## Unveiling the Royal Legacy: Rajarata University Toastmasters Club's Momentous Charter Installation Ceremony



The Rajarata University Toastmasters Club celebrated a momentous occasion with their charter installation ceremony, held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023, at the Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The captivating theme of 'Unveiling the Royal Legacy' set the stage for an extraordinary event attended by distinguished guests, including esteemed toastmasters, Deans of the Faculties, and students.

The ceremony welcomed Toastmaster Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, as the esteemed Chief Guest, and the District Director Distinguished Toastmaster Nisal Weerakoon as the guest of honour. A truly inspiring keynote address was delivered by Distinguished Toastmaster Arunasalam Balraj, Past International President of Toastmasters International, encouraging attendees to embrace personal growth and leadership development.



## AIIESEC in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Wins Awards at CS Eminence

CS Eminence 2022, which is the annual Awards Night organized by AIIESEC in Colombo South, was held on the 28th of January 2023. AIIESEC in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was able to win the following awards and nominations from among other universities – Kothalawala Defense University (KDU), Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL) and Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC).

### Awards:

- The Most Outstanding Initiative Group Award (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive time)
- Best Performing Initiative Group President Award – Tisal Rathnayake
- Best Performing Initiative Group Vice President Award – Medini Dhanushka

### Nominees:

- Best Performing Initiative Group Vice President Award – Uvindu Abeydewa

AIIESEC is a non-partisan, independent, not-for-profit organization run by students and recent graduates of institutions of higher education. It creates a global platform for young people to explore and develop their leadership potential. Founded in 1948, AIIESEC has been striving to achieve peace and unlock humanity's potential ever since. AIIESEC at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was established on February 3, 2021, and has been fostering leadership among youth since then.

Special thanks are extended to AIIESEC at the University of Moratuwa, the National Expansion Board of AIIESEC in Sri Lanka, and the Member Committee of AIIESEC in Sri Lanka. Gratitude is also expressed to the alumni of AIIESEC at Rajarata, the Staff Advisor of AIIESEC at Rajarata, Dr. H. O. Wijewardane, the Vice-Chancellor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, and the administration and staff of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for their support in this achievement.





**"Food Innovators Huddle" & "Food Research Presentation and Networking Forum"**

It's worth noting that two final-year researchers, representing the Department of Animal and Food Sciences within the Faculty of Agriculture, have been selected to participate in two significant events: the 'Food Innovators Huddle' hosted by Dilmah Conservations and the 'Food Research Presentation and Networking Forum - 2023' organized by the Ministry of Industries.

Mr. Mahesh Nayagedara, Ms. J. N. P. De Silva, and Ms. V. Anuradha Wijesekara took part in the “Food Innovators Huddle” competition organized by the Dilmah Conservations held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023. They were able to achieve the “Top Pitch” award, competing with other participated state universities, private organizations and other educational institutes, for the research on Instant String hoppers prepared with Jackfruit Seed Flour.

Ms. V. Anuradha Wijesekara and Ms. J. N. P. De Silva participated respectively in the poster and oral presentations, for the “Food Research Presentation and Networking Forum -2023” organized by the Ministry of Industries held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Hotel Waters' Edge. The forum consisted of public and private sectors who were in interest to commercialise the research prototypes. The high-protein cookies made out of soybean and peanut and the instant string hoppers prepared with jackfruit seed flour got the interest of a few private parties who would like to commercialize the product in the future.



**Short Course on Post-harvest Technology of Agricultural Food Crops**

An online short course offered by the Department of Animal and Food Sciences was conducted over four Sundays starting from 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to 02<sup>nd</sup> July 2023. Knowledge on. Post-harvest losses and their causes, Post-harvest Operations of Agricultural Crops Processing, and Management of quality and safety of fresh and processed products from farmer to consumer were the course contents. Mrs. C.A.K. Dissanayake (Course Coordinator), Dr. N.W.I.A. Jayawardana, Dr. D.W.M.M.M. Kumari, and Dr. H.R.M.G.C. Thilakarathne conducted the lectures and practical sessions. Participants were awarded with a valuable course completion certificate at the end.



**Training Programme for the Students of University College of Anuradhapura, University of Vocational Technology**

On January 24, 2023, Dr. D.M.D. Dissanayake and Dr. D.A.U.D. Devasinghe from the Department of Plant Sciences conducted training sessions for students of the 2021 batch at the University College of Anuradhapura, University of Vocational Technology. The sessions covered protected agricultural practices to increase post-harvest crop quality.





### **Workshop on “Productivity and Input Use Efficiency Enhancement of Maize – Legume Cropping System and Improvement of Associated Value Chains in Sri Lanka”**

Dr. W.C.P. Egodawatta, Dr. D.M.D. Dissanayake and Mr. T.A.B.D. Sanjeeva participated in the workshop on “Productivity and input use efficiency enhancement of Maize – Legume cropping system and improvement of associated value chains in Sri Lanka”, held from 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> June, at Hotel Rajarata, Anuradhapura. The workshop was held by the Food and Agriculture Organization in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka to understand the current situation and way forward of the “Maize based cropping systems” in the Dry and Intermediate Zone of Sri Lanka. The workshop intended to brainstorm and identify strategies to achieve short, medium, and long term objectives that would contribute to national food security.

### **National Workshop on Intellectual Property for Sri Lankan Women Inventors and Scientists**

Mrs. T.D.C. Priyadarshani participated in the workshop related to the National Workshop on Intellectual Property for Sri Lankan women inventors and scientists in line with World Intellectual Property Day 2023. This was organized by the National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO) of Sri Lanka and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 at Hotel Galadari, Colombo. During this workshop private sector, and public-sector women inventors were met and attempts were made to build up some of the groups for future innovative inspirations.

### **Workshop on “New Edible and Medicinal Macro Fungi: Discover to Production and Endophytic Fungi as Biocontrol Agents”**

A workshop on “New edible and medicinal macro fungi: discover to production and endophytic fungi as biocontrol agents” was held on 01.02.2023 at the Faculty of Agriculture. This was organized by the AHEAD Project, Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture. The resource persons were Prof. Samantha Karunarathne and Prof. Saowaluck Tibpromma from the Quijing Normal University, China.

### **Crop Clinic – By Mrs. T.D.C. Priyadarshani**

Disease Clinic was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023 at the Faculty Auditorium. The event was funded by the AHEAD DPS project of the Faculty of Agriculture. Farmers were provided with knowledge and practical experience on rice diseases, diseases of fruits and vegetables, management of pests and diseases of field crops, fruits, and vegetables, weed management, nutrient management, identification and management of postharvest diseases, and pesticide application. This event was organized by the Year 4 Semester 1 majoring students with the guidance of Mrs. TDC Priyadarshani, Senior Lecturer, Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture.





## 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Sustainable Nitrogen Management

Mrs. P.N.M.S. Piyarathne participated in the First National Symposium on Sustainable Nitrogen Management from June 22nd to 23rd, 2023 at the Grand Monarch Hotel, Thalawathugoda. The symposium was organized by the University of Peradeniya in partnership with the Ministry of Environment. It gathered insights, commitment, and efforts from stakeholders including policymakers, academics, civil servants, practitioners, activists, and others interested in developing a national action plan to halve nitrogen waste in Sri Lanka by 2030.

The event featured invited presentations covering sectors like agriculture, industry, waste, health, marine ecosystems, and standards. It also included panel discussions, interactive workshops, and poster sessions over the two days. The Honorable Ministers of Agriculture and Environment graced the symposium.

### Awarding and Grants

#### Erasmus Grants

Fostering sustainable University-industry Techno-entrepreneurial Collaborations and innovations in Asian Universities (FOUNTAIN)

Coordinator: Prof. M.H.J.P. Gunarathna

### Awards

#### Prof. M.H.J.P. Gunarathna

- ❖ RUSL Research Excellence Award 2022 - Researchers having highest number of citations - 6th place
- ❖ RUSL Research Excellence Award 2022 - Researchers having highest h-index, 4<sup>th</sup> place
- ❖ Vice Chancellor Awards 2022 - Researchers having the highest number of citations, Faculty of Agriculture - 2nd place
- ❖ Vice Chancellor Awards 2022 - Researchers having the highest h- index, Faculty of Agriculture - 1st place



#### Prof. N.S. Abeysingha

- ❖ Most Outstanding Senior researcher in Faculty of Agriculture under VC awards.
- ❖ Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of citations under RUSL Excellence Awards.
- ❖ Top Ten Researchers with the highest h-index, RUSL Excellence Awards
- ❖ Researchers (1<sup>st</sup>) with the highest number of citations, Faculty of Agriculture, VC Awards.
- ❖ Researchers (2<sup>nd</sup>) with the highest h- index, Faculty of Agriculture, VC Awards
- ❖ One of the top 20 researchers in 2022 in RUSL.

#### Dr. (Ms.) A.J. Fernando

- ❖ Vice Chancellor's Award 2022 for the Most Outstanding Young Researcher of the Faculty of Agriculture.
- ❖ RUSL Excellence Award 2022 for Researcher having the highest number of indexed journal articles - Fifth place.
- ❖ Vice Chancellor's Award 2022 for the Top Three Researchers - having the highest number of indexed journal articles in the Faculty of Agriculture - First place.
- ❖ Vice Chancellor's Award 2022 in Recognition of Publishing Peer-reviewed Research Articles in Indexed Journals.

#### Dr. Jayaruwani Fernando

- ❖ Jayaruwani Fernando was conferred with her Ph.D. in Agricultural and Bio-Systems Engineering at the University of Peradeniya on May 24, 2023.



### Assumption of Duties as the Head of the Department of Biological Science

Dr. (Mrs.) P.N Yapa, Senior Lecturer, assumed duties as the new Head of the Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 01<sup>st</sup> of March 2023. She received her Ph.D. from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in 2021 and her Master of Philosophy from the University of Peradeniya in 2012.



### Achievements

Dr. W. A. Gunarathne, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics, Faculty of Applied Sciences obtained his doctoral degree from the University of Peradeniya in 2023. He earned his B.Sc (special) degree in Mathematics from the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya in 2005 and his M.Phil in Mathematics, PGIS, University of Peradeniya in 2014.



### MINDORA 2023 Microbiology Day Exhibition

MINDORA 2023, Microbiology Day exhibition held on May 26, 2023, at the Faculty of Applied Sciences was organized by the Department of Biological Sciences of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The department aimed to promote research and education in biology, microbiology, and other related fields in the life sciences.

Undergraduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences who are part of exploring the mysteries and uncovering the secrets of the microbial world had the opportunity to share their knowledge with school children who have just begun their own scientific exploration. Overall, the exhibition was a great success, with over 1700 enthusiastic schoolchildren and 650 university students participating in the event.



### IMSA Chess Fiesta 2023 by Industrial Mathematics Student Association (IMSA), Faculty of Applied Sciences

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023, the Industrial Mathematics Student Association (IMSA) hosted its eagerly awaited second Chess Fiesta. The event was held on the popular Lichess online platform and featured an exhilarating 7-round Swiss tournament with a rapid time control of 10 minutes plus a 0-second increment.





### A Webinar-by the Society of Physics & Astronomy (SOPA)

A webinar session titled "Achieve your dreams on academic future" was organized by the Society of Physics & Astronomy (SOPA) on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023 with the participation of academic staff as well as students of the faculty. The session was conducted in a hybrid manner by Ms. Agra Wickramagedara, a PhD candidate in Physics at the University of North Texas, USA.



### "Sipsayura" 2023 by Industrial Mathematics Student Association (IMSA), Faculty of Applied Sciences

"Sipsayura" is an impactful educational program organized by the IMSA to support O/L students studying in rural schools. The core objective of this program is to prepare and equip students for the examination of mathematics at O/L. The program achieves this by engaging students in insightful discussions around model papers and providing them with the necessary motivation to excel in their examinations. In the year 2023, the program witnessed remarkable success with the execution of two well-structured sessions. These sessions were held on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April, respectively. The chosen venues were MR/ Deniyaya Rajapaksha Maha Vidyalyaya and MR/ Pallegama National School.



### Association of Young Biologists Organized a Bird-Watching Program

Association of Young Biologists conducted a Bird-watching session for beginners on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023, in the faculty premises at 3.00 p.m. with the guidance of Professor Sriyani Wickramasinghe. The programme started at the university and covered the area up to "Iruppukanniya" lake with the participation of 88 students including 10 committee members. This was done by representing the committee members in groups and provided an experience and awareness about what to be aware of in bird watching as well as how to do birding properly. The programme which lasted for three hours was successfully completed.



### Committee on Early Childhood Care and Development

The Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment has appointed Prof. Duminda Guruge as a member of the national coordination committee on Early Childhood Care and Development from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.





### ASURS 2023: Nurturing the Future of Science

The annual undergraduate symposium of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, ASURS 2023, held on May 10th, was a resounding success, showcasing young scientists' remarkable talents and potentials. Dr. Hemantha Kulathilake, program chair, organized ASURS 2023 with the support of the faculty members of all the departments in the faculty. With 52 students presenting their research abstracts across various disciplines, including Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Health Promotion, Mathematics, and Physics, the event served as a platform for these budding scientists to share their innovative ideas and discoveries. The keynote speaker Professor Anjana Silva, a distinguished figure in the world of science with impressive credentials, delivered an enlightening speech. In his address, he provided invaluable guidance to young scientists, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking and adaptability in pursuing scientific knowledge.



In the first, in the Faculty of Applied Sciences, a "Three-Minute Thesis" (3MT) competition was held before the main event. Dr. Sumali Dissanayake, a senior lecturer from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, played a pivotal role in organizing this exciting session. Approximately 45 students participated in the 3MT competition on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, presenting their research concisely and engagingly.



Moreover, the ASURS 2023 event celebrated the intersection of art and science through an art competition. With the theme "Impact of Climate Change," this competition allowed talented undergraduates to express their insights and concerns about one of the most pressing global issues. It was a remarkable showcase of how science and creativity can collaborate to raise awareness about our planet's critical challenges.

### Committee to Study and Make Recommendations for the Protection of Children

His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka has appointed a committee to study and make recommendations for the protection, care, and well-being of children subject to various forms of violence in Sri Lanka. This committee would basically contribute to identifying key issues and risks faced by children, considering necessary action to improve the well-being of children subject to abuse and neglect, and providing policy recommendations, which is a national priority. Dr. Manoj Fernando, Head, the Department of Health Promotion has been appointed as a member of this committee.



### Research Excellence Awards – RUSL

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka hosted the Research Excellence Award Ceremony on January 20, 2023, to recognize and commend the exceptional performance of its researchers. During this event, the Department of Health Promotion received the prestigious Vice Chancellor's Award in acknowledgment of their outstanding achievement as the department with the highest number of indexed journal articles published in the Faculty of Applied Sciences in 2022. This accomplishment underscores the department's remarkable contributions to research, innovation, and scholarly endeavors.

Dr. Lalith Senarathna, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Health Promotion, was a standout honoree at the ceremony, receiving four Vice Chancellor's Awards for excellence in research. This recognition underscores Dr. Senarathna's remarkable contributions to the university's research excellence.





**Research Awards**

The outstanding academic researchers in the Faculty of Applied Sciences received annual research awards for 2020 and 2021 in the Applied Science Undergraduate Research Symposium (ASURS). These awards were delivered by the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka to value the remarkable outcomes of the research conducted by academics in the faculty, and to appreciate their hard work in 2020.



In 2020,  
The award winner - Dr. P N Yapa



In 2021, The award winners  
Senior Category – Dr. Lalith Senarathna



Junior Category – Mr. Wiraj Wickramaarachchi

**The Dean's Award for Academic Year 2015/2016, Faculty of Applied Sciences**

The Dean's Award for the academic year 2015/16 was earned by Ms. DJYMWNK Jayasekera (Reg. No. ASB/2015/2016/022) for the Degree of Bachelor of Science Honors in Chemistry. The Dean's Award is an award conferred annually for the overall best performance of the respective academic year.



**Another Giant Step in the Journey of Physics Research at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, RUSL**

Dr. Kalpani Kumari, Dr. Chaturanga Thotawatthage and Dr. Harshani Wijewardane, Senior lecturers attached to the Department of Physical Sciences were interested in developing technology related to climate data acquisition. In February 2023, as the third-year undergraduate research project, Miss. K.G.M.S. Thilakarathne and the above group have developed a low cost Quadrifilar Helix Antenna to receive weather satellite data which can be used to understand regional climate variations for future predictions. Research work is collaborated with Dr. Janith Weerasinghe of the College of Engineering, Computing and Cybernetics, Australian National University, Australia. The main objective of this research is to establish a satellite data receiving system at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and collect long term satellite weather information to create a climate change model.

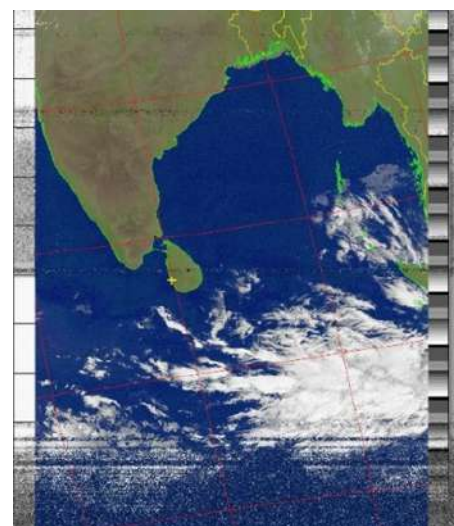
- (1) Research group: (from left) Dr. Kalpani Kumari, Miss. K.G.M.S. Thilakarathne, Dr. Chaturanga Totawatthage,
- (2) Prepared low cost quadrifilar helix antenna
- (3) Processed satellite image obtained on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 10.20 am.



(1)



(2)



(3)



### Erasmus+ Programme Project - ASIA-TRANSMED II

The Department of Health Promotion, Faculty of Applied Sciences, has been granted a three-year project titled 'Asian Health Alliance: Developing high-impact sustainable educational programs for Transfusion Medicine professionals for safe blood donation and supply (ASIA-TRANSMED II)' by the Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS). This project is implemented as a consortium of partners that includes three Sri Lankan universities Rajarata, Jaffna and Peradeniya, two Indian universities, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, Groningen University, Netherlands, the National Blood Transfusion Service of Sri Lanka, and the Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine.



As a consortium member, the Department of Health Promotion will be responsible for developing a behavior change and communication skills training module. Dr. Manoj Fernando, Senior Lecturer, Department of Health Promotion, Faculty of Applied Sciences was appointed as the project leader. Mrs. K.G.P.H Kandegeedara, senior lecturer, and Mr. C. P. Senevirathna, lecturer of the Department of Health Promotion are the other members of this project team.

### Congratulations to the Award Winners

Ten awards were delivered to non-academic staff members of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, to celebrate their hard work and dedication throughout the year 2022. Your contribution to the faculty is immense and priceless!

Best Performing Technical Officer & Best Performer of Dept of Chemical Sciences



Mr. W.M.N. Weerasekara

Best Performing Management Assistant & Best Performer of Dean's Office



Ms. NS Priyadharshani

Best Performing Lab Attendant & Best Performer of Dept. of Health Promotion



Mr. RMUK Rathnayake

Best Performing Works Aid & Best Performer of Dept. of Computing



Mr. DMCP Dissanayake

Best Performer of Dept. of Biological Sciences



Ms. N Jayawardhana

Best Performer of Dept. of Physical Sciences



Ms. UPP Ranjani



### “Mathaka” Book Donation Program 2023

Initiated in 2022, “MATHAKA” was brought to life by the Accountancy & Finance Students' Association of the Department of Accountancy & Finance of the Faculty of Management Studies. This initiative has a noble cause at its heart to provide educational necessities to underprivileged families in the rural areas of Anuradhapura District. MATHAKA's core purpose is to address the hurdles encountered by families who find the costs of basic school supplies beyond their means. By ensuring that children from these families receive the resources they need to excel in their academic endeavors, the initiative hopes to create a ripple of positive change in their lives and communities. Echoing the sentiment that “A child without education is like a bird without wings,” MATHAKA has been a beacon of support for quality education for the most underprivileged pupils in inaccessible rural areas in Sri Lanka, particularly, Anuradhapura. The program has empowered over 70 students from numerous remote locations by facilitating the donation of school stationery, thereby enhancing the quality of education.



### Environmental Cleaning Project - Ruwan Weli Mahaseya

To address the environmental degradation caused by the disposal of non-biodegradable waste at Ruwan Weli Maha Seya, the Students' Association (ACFA) at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized a cleaning campaign on June 18, 2023. This socially responsible project, conducted with guidance from the academic staff, aimed to improve the city's cleanliness, enhance undergraduates' environmental responsibility, and develop soft skills like organization and teamwork. The initiative also aimed to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the natural environment among the students.



### Blood Donation Program

The annual blood donation campaign was organized by the 2019 batch in the Department of Accountancy and Finance of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka as a partial requirement of the Professional Skills Development Module. The blood donation campaign was initiated with the primary objective of addressing the constant demand for blood in hospitals and medical facilities across the country. Recognizing the critical shortage of blood and the potential impact it has on saving lives, the 2018/2019 batch of the Accountancy and Finance Department took the initiative to organize this event to contribute to the national blood supply. The campaign was meticulously planned and executed, involving collaboration with local hospitals, blood banks, and medical professionals to ensure the smooth operation of the event. On the day of the blood donation campaign, a dedicated space was set up within the university premises, equipped with medical personnel and necessary facilities to ensure a safe and hygienic blood donation process. The event was sponsored by Amana Bank, Anuradhapura and there were around 150 donors.



### Mock Interviews for Accounting Undergraduates

A mock interview as part of the ACF 3261- Professional Skills Development III module for third-year, second-semester Accounting and Finance undergraduates was conducted on 14th July 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the FMS hall no. 08. As part of this module, the department has scheduled four assessment activities in the third year second semester, with the fourth assessment being the "Career Management and Progression Pathways" activity. To achieve the intended learning outcomes, The Mock interview was conducted by MAS Legato (Pvt) Ltd, the Human Resource and Finance Shared Service Centre of MAS Holding with a team of six officers from MAS Legato (Pvt) Ltd. This opportunity is a valuable one for the Faculty of Management Studies and our University, as MAS Legato (Pvt) Ltd has expressed their interest in establishing a strategic partnership with Rajarata University Sri Lanka for future employee recruitment. They have also indicated their intention to identify outstanding candidates during the mock interview. This presents an excellent opportunity for our Accounting and Finance undergraduates, as they will soon be seeking internships to fulfill the partial requirement of their degree.



## Launching ACCFIN, Magazine

The Department of Accountancy & Finance at the Faculty of Management Studies launched its inaugural magazine titled 'ACCFIN' on February 2, 2023. The unveiling ceremony took place at the Faculty Auditorium, marking a significant milestone for the department. The esteemed editor of the inaugural magazine is Dr. PR Weerathunga, a prominent figure within the academic community. The magazine is a result of collaborative efforts, as news and articles were contributed by both academics and students of the Department of Accountancy & Finance. This inclusive approach ensures a diverse range of perspectives and insights within the publication. The launch event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, students, and esteemed guests who gathered to celebrate this achievement. The magazine serves as a platform to showcase the department's academic achievements, research endeavors, and the vibrant contributions of its student body.



## Healthiesta 2023

Healthiesta 2023 is a workshop series conducted by the Third Year (HRM 2020/21) Undergraduates, of the Department of Human Resource Management, aligning with the Health and Safety Management Course (HRM 3152).

### Workshop 01: Fire Safety

Fire Safety, the first free workshop of Healthiesta 2023 was successfully conducted in collaboration with the Security Office of the Rajarata University and the Anuradhapura Fire Rescue Office on 26th and 27th June 2023 at the New Faculty Auditorium of the Faculty of Management Studies followed by outdoor practical sessions. The main purpose of this workshop was to make aware the undergraduates and security officers of fire rescue, precautions for fire, and other related substances.

The event was graced by the honorable chief guest, the Vice Chancellor of the Rajarata University, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Head of the Department of Human Resource Management, Mr. Sujeewa Weerasinghe, Chief Security Officer, Mr. Chandrasekare, and Staff Members of the HRM Department including Ms. Sakunthala Rathnakara and Ms. Rasanjalie Kularathne.



### Workshop 02: Mending Mind

The second free workshop, titled 'Mending Mind' on stress management, was successfully conducted on June 27, 2023, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Faculty of Management Studies premises. Mr. Jaliya Rathnayake was the resource person, and he created a calm and relaxing atmosphere for the evening. This workshop was organized for the 2020/21 academic year.



## "Sarasawi Amadam Sisila"

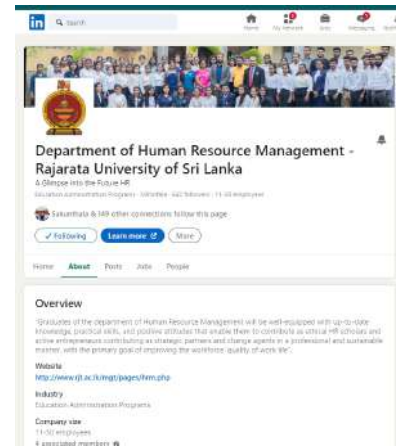
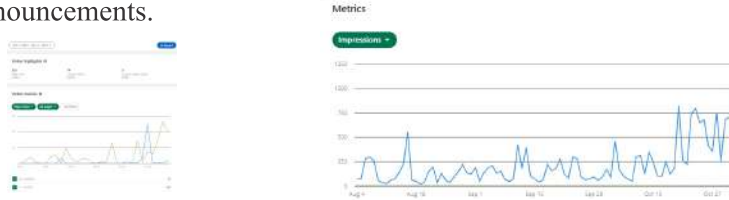
"Sarasavi Amadam Sisila" Ashirvada Pahan Pooja was held at the Mihintalea Raja Maha Temple on the 05<sup>th</sup> of June with the generous contribution of the Department of Human Resource Management of the Faculty of Management Studies. This great charity work was done on behalf of all the devotees including university students.





**Official LinkedIn Page of the Department of Human Resource Management**

The official LinkedIn page of the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) was created on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 as a pathway to the corporate world. As an academic institution producing HRM graduates for the industry, this official LinkedIn page acts as a doorway into the employment of our graduates to build connections, gain credibility, and find job opportunities. At present, the page has 635 followers with progressive page impressions and visitor highlights. We share upcoming events, academic news, policy changes, deadlines, seminars, conferences, workshops and webinars, CSR projects, and other relevant announcements.



**Vidwan 2023 - "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other" - John F. Kennedy**

“Vidwan 2023”, a Leadership Development Program for Prefects and Class Monitors was conducted at the National School of Mihintale. This was organized by the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students of the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 09<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The main purpose of this program was to fulfill the social requirement and Corporate Social Responsibility as a part of the Human Resource Development Course of the degree program. The program consisted of several leadership development activities and games.



**Anchor 2023: HR Forum**

ANCHOR 2023 marked the inaugural HR Forum organized by third-year undergraduates from the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management Studies at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. This event was an integral part of the Labor Relations, Grievance Handling, and Discipline Management course.

The forum took place on May 4, 2023, at the New Faculty Auditorium and was graced by the presence of several distinguished guests, including the Chief Guest, Vice-Chancellor of RUSL, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, the Keynote Speaker, Mr. Ubayasekara, CEO of CIPM, the Dean of FMS, Prof. Bandula Jayathilake, the Head of the Department of HRM, Mr. Sujeewa Weerasinghe, academic members of the faculty, Senior Assistant Registrar, Mr. Wijitha Dissanayake, and industry professionals who participated in the HR Forum. These professionals included Mr. Waruna Solanga Arachchi, Event Host at Jathika Rupavahini Corporation and Assistant Manager at Informatics Institute of Technology, Ms. Achini Kandana Arachchi, Senior HR Manager at PGP Glass Ceylon PLC, and Mr. Thilina Prabath, HR Manager at MAS KREEDA, Mihintale, along with HRM undergraduates.



**Project to clean Mihintale Raja Maha Temple**

A project was conducted at the Mihintale Raja Maha Temple. This was organized by the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students of the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The main purpose of this program was to fulfill the social requirement and Corporate Social Responsibility as a part of the Human Resource Development Course of the degree program.





## HR Glimmer 2023: Annual Academic Magazine Launch

HR Glimmer 2023, the inaugural annual academic magazine, was launched by the Department of Human Resource Management within the Faculty of Management Studies at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. It served as an excellent platform for undergraduates, industry professionals, and individuals with a passion for writing professionally to express their ideas, suggestions, and opinions.

The magazine launching ceremony took place on May 4, 2023, at the New Faculty Auditorium, with the distinguished presence of several notable figures. These included the Chief Guest, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, the Vice Chancellor of RUSL, the Keynote Speaker, Mr. Ubayasekara, CEO of CIPM, Prof. Bandula Jayathilake, the Dean of FMS, Mr. Sujeewa Weerasinghe, the Head of the Department of HRM, academic members of the faculty, Senior Assistant Registrar Mr. Wijitha Dissanayake, and industry professionals who participated in the HR Forum. Notable among these professionals were Mr. Waruna Solanga Arachchi, Event Host at Jathika Rupavahini Corporation and Assistant Manager at Informatics Institute of Technology, Ms. Achini Kandana Arachchi, Senior HR Manager at PGP Glass Ceylon PLC, and Mr. Thilina Prabath, HR Manager at MAS KREEDA, Mihintale, alongside HRM undergraduates.



## OBT Program

The aspiring first-year undergraduates of the Department of Human Resource Management were given yet another chance to develop their skills and character as budding leaders and professionals in our society. This OBT program was held on the 09<sup>th</sup> of March at the university premises. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Career Guidance Unit - Rajarata University of Sri Lanka; Mr. Jaliya Rathnayake, and Mrs. Mangalika Dissanayake for sharing their expertise.



## Session on Public Speaking

The first-year undergraduates in the Department of Human Resource Management had the privilege to participate in a great session about public speaking, speech organization, and presentation skills by a champion speaker, club coach, and trainer toastmaster Thilina Dissanayake from Wayamba Toastmasters Club. This session was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2023 at the New Faculty Auditorium of the Faculty.



## Workshop on 'Life Skills for Undergraduates'

A special workshop on "Life Skills for Undergraduates" was successfully conducted by the Career Guidance Counselor of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Ms. Mangalika Dissanayake on 25th January. The main objective of this workshop was to inculcate the soft skills of the undergraduates to be successful in their academic and personal spheres of life.





**Workshop on "The Art of Fine Dining"**

Our first-year undergraduates had a memorable, interactive practical session on "The art of fine dining" on 02nd March 2023 at the Model Kitchen and Restaurant in the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management. This was a part of their professional skills development (PSD) program. In that demonstration session, we explored the way of fine dining etiquette skills and the students learned the ins and outs of proper business dining etiquette through a 4-course formal meal including the etiquette for silverware, napkins, and glassware.



**Discovery of Technology: DOT 2023**

We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the event Discovery of Technology (DOT) 2023, organized by the Business Information Technology Students' Association (BITSA) in collaboration with the Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The event featured exceptional presentations by the talented 2021 Information Systems Batch. Despite the challenges, the event took place seamlessly via the Zoom platform, bringing together participants from diverse locations. The DOT Event 2023 showcased groundbreaking ideas and cutting-edge technology insights, reflecting the students' dedication and passion for innovation.



**RUIZ-G V2.0 Event - 2023**

We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the event RUIZ-G (V2.0) 2023. The Business Information Students' Association, in cooperation with the Department of Information Systems at the Faculty of Management Studies - RUSL, organized an inter-university online gaming competition on February 26, 2023. The event was advertised on social media.

The competition winners and cash awards were given as follows:

Championship – LKR 15,000/- Winner: University of Moratuwa (Team Hackz)

Runner up – LKR 10,000/- Winner: Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (Team AK47)





### **Achievement of Mrs. KTNPAbeywickrama**

Mrs. KTNPAbeywickrama, Former Head and a Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, has achieved significant milestones in her academic and professional journey. She successfully completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Counseling at the Faculty of Education, University of Colombo, earning a Merit pass effective from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Simultaneously, she was recognized as a 'Level 2 Business Coach Academic' from the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, upon the successful completion of a 'Training of Trainers (ToT) in Professional Business Coaching' conducted by Skills for Inclusive Growth (S4IG) Sri Lanka.

Furthermore, on September 15, 2023, Mrs. Abeywickrama concluded her tenure as the Head of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, marking three years of effective leadership.



### **Recognition as a Professional Business Coach-Academic.**

Mr. KTL Udaya Sri Dayangana / Senior Lecturer of the Dept. of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was certified as a “Level 2 Business Coach Academic” by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) on 12th December 2022. This program was initiated under the Skills for Inclusive Growth (S4IG) program which is an initiative of the Australian Government in partnership with the Sri Lankan State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, and Research & Innovations.

### **Senior Lecturer Promotion**

Mrs. Edina Wiligas Biyiri, attached to the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade II with effect from 01.11.2022.



### **R.A.T.D De Silva**

We take great pleasure in announcing that Ms. R.A.D.T. De Silva was honored with the Gold Medal by Prof. Geoffrey C. Loyed Gold Medal at the 23rd General Convocation of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. This prestigious award is presented to the student who achieved the Best Performance in the Bachelor of Science (Tourism and Hospitality Management) Special Degree.



### **Ms. P.G.N.M. Dharmarathna**

was honored with the Prof. Ranjith Wijayawardana Gold Medal for Best Performance in the Food Safety and Human Nutrition in B.Sc. (Tourism and Hospitality Management) Special Degree.





**Field Visit with Kahagala Night Camping**

The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management organized a captivating two-day field visit on June 24th and 25th, 2023, exclusively for their 2020 batch of students. The journey began at Riverston, known for its stunning scenery, and continued to Pitawala Pathana, celebrated for its unique ecosystem. In the evening, students enjoyed camping in Kahagala village, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie around a campfire while stargazing.

On the final day, the students ventured into the ancient village of Walpolamulla, where they trekked through challenging terrain for panoramic views. This field trip provided students with hands-on experience, helping them understand the impact of tourism on local communities and the environment. It emphasized the importance of sustainable tourism practices and preserving natural and cultural resources. One student expressed, "Experiences like these deepen our appreciation for our natural and cultural heritage." This journey united the students and reinforced their commitment to safeguard these treasures for future generations.



**Exploring Eastern Sri Lanka: A Transformative Field Visit with a One-Night Camping Experience**

The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management recently organized a two-day field visit for students from the 2019 academic year, aimed at immersing them in the world of tourism and exploring Eastern Sri Lanka's cultural and natural wonders. The journey began on July 7, 2023. The first stop was Pasikuda, known for its pristine beaches and clear waters. Students enjoyed leisurely beach strolls amid the tranquil surroundings. The group then ventured to Komali Beach for team-building activities and a glimpse into the local fishing community, emphasizing sustainable tourism practices. The excursion continued at the Buttala Camping Site, where students learned about eco-tourism and camping, emphasizing the importance of preserving natural resources while catering to tourists.

The second day featured a visit to the Palwatta Sugar Factory, offering insights into agro-tourism and sugar production's intricate process. Guided tours of the factory highlighted tourism's economic impact. The excursion's grand finale was the Maligavila Temple, a cultural and historical masterpiece. Students explored the temple's intricate sculptures and architectural marvels, guided by an expert who shared cultural insights. Throughout the visit, informative lectures and discussions enriched students' understanding of the tourism industry, its challenges, and opportunities. Engaging dialogues with industry experts and local stakeholders provided insights into sustainable tourism practices and their effects on local communities.

This two-day expedition provided experiential learning, cultural immersion, and practical insights into tourism and hospitality. It instilled a sense of responsibility for sustainable tourism practices, shaping the contributions of future professionals to the industry.





### Dr. Manoj Samarathunga Decorates the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with a CVCD Award

Dr. WHMS Samarathunga, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, received the CVCD Excellence Award for "Most Outstanding Young Researcher" in Management Studies. This prestigious award was presented during the CVCD Awards Ceremony on June 9, 2023, by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremasinghe, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Samarathunga is a prolific researcher with numerous publications in top-tier indexed journals worldwide. He serves as the Research Director of the International Center for Interdisciplinary Culture Heritage & Tourism Research at Sichuan University, China-Sri Lanka. He also contributes as an editorial board member and reviewer for international and local journals in the fields of tourism, management, and development.

Apart from supervising Sri Lankan postgraduate students, Dr. Samarathunga has experience in guiding foreign students conducting field research in Sri Lanka. He is a visiting scholar at the Faculty of Economics, University of Cankiri, Turkey, and a resource person for the United States Department of State on "Sustainable Tourism Development in South Asia." Additionally, he conducts research workshops and short courses on qualitative data analysis. Dr. Samarathunga's contributions extend to the Research Advisory Committee of the National Institute of Post-Harvest Management, Sri Lanka, and he holds the title of 'Research Fellow' within the National Center for Advances Studies (NCAS), Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka.



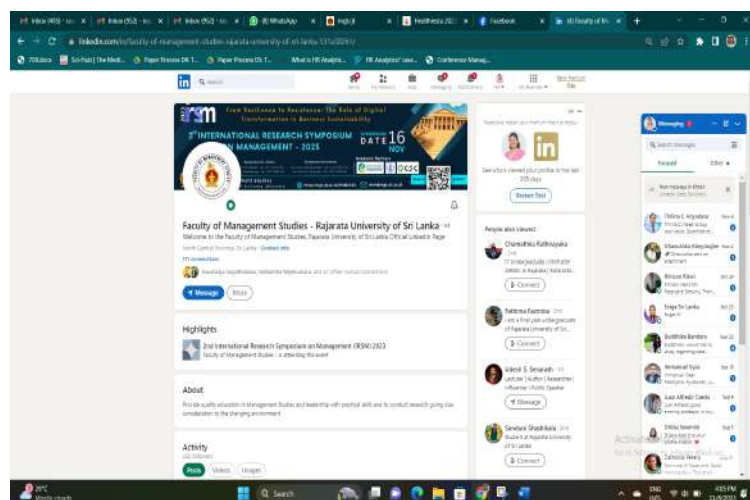
### Social Media Platforms of the Faculty of Management Studies

#### Official Facebook Page

The Faculty of Management Studies opened official Facebook page for the faculty on 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2022 and it has more than 3,000 followers at present. All the news, information, projects, seminars, conferences and symposiums and upcoming events are shared in the Facebook page, to reach the external community. The media coordinator of the faculty is Mr. Nishantha Wijekumara, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Accountancy and Finance, Faculty of Management Studies

#### Official LinkedIn Page

The Faculty of Management Studies opened official LinkedIn page for the faculty on 25<sup>th</sup> of January, 2023 and it has more than 171 connections at present. All the news, information, projects, seminars, conferences and symposiums and upcoming events are shared in the LinkedIn page, to reach the professional community in the field. The media coordinator of the faculty is Mr. Nishantha Wijekumara, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Accountancy and Finance, Faculty of Management Studies.





**"Husma" – Social Welfare Event**

In February 2023, the 2020 students of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies, organized the "Husma" social welfare program at the Saliyapura Sathuta Children's Home. This event, part of their Event Operation and Evaluation course-work, spanned for two days.

On the first day, students undertook a cleaning mission within the children's home and its surroundings. The second day was dedicated to creating a special experience for the children, including activities like drawing and musical programs. A hearty lunch was served, and 28 children received essential items such as clothes, sanitary supplies, medicines, and cash gifts. Mrs. Nishala Abeywickrama, the Head of the Tourism and Hospitality Management Department, expressed her deep satisfaction with the program's outcomes, emphasizing the importance of bringing joy to children in special circumstances. This event serves as a reminder that acts of kindness can make a positive difference in the world, especially during challenging times.



**Heaven in Tents - Stunning Hiking Program Takes Enthusiastic Students on a Unique Adventure**

In February 2023, students from the 2020 batch of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies, embarked on an outdoor adventure called "Heaven in Tent" under the guidance of subject lecturers, Mrs. Danoja Jayasri and Prabath Jayasinghe. This event included hiking and night camping.

The picturesque Mihintale area served as the ideal location for hiking activities. During the expedition, they climbed Mount Atwehera, explored the historic Rajagiri Caves, and enjoyed relaxation at Kaludiya Pond. Following their day of adventure, participants gathered for a memorable camping experience at the Faculty of Social Sciences, engaging in various outdoor activities and entertainment.

This journey fostered connections among participants, provided a closer connection with nature, and offered insights into event management. The Head of the Department, Senior Lecturer Mrs. Nishala Abeywickrama, lecturers from the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, and students from the 2022 batch actively participated, further strengthening departmental bonds.





## BOOZE BRAWL–Cocktail Competition 2023 - A Stirring Triumph for Rajarata University's Hospitality Students

The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies hosted an engaging event on July 13, 2023, known as the "Booze Brawl Cocktail Competition." This captivating event was organized by the 2019 batch of undergraduates specializing in Hospitality and proved to be a thrilling showcase of mixology brilliance. Under the expert guidance of Food & Beverage lecturer, Mr. Janidu Chaturanga, and Mr. Pradeep Sanjeewa, the university's management faculty auditorium came alive with flair, taste, and innovation.

The presence of esteemed guests added prestige to the occasion. Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Prof. P.M.B. Jayathilake, the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies, Ms. K.T.N.P. Abeywickrama, the Head of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, and renowned blogger, Mr. Antony Stone, enthusiastically joined the competition, infusing an extra touch of excitement. With 15 skilled competitors in the field, the stage was set for an intense showdown. Contestants unleashed their imagination and mixology prowess, crafting exquisite and innovative cocktails that left the judges and audience spellbound. The panel of judges included eminent personalities in the hospitality field.

### Judge Panel:

Mr. WWAN Sujeewa (Head of the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management Studies)  
Mr. DDP Sanjeewa (Lecturer, Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies)  
Mr. RMAP Rathnayake (Lecturer-in-Charge (Food & Beverage), Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management)

After much deliberation and careful evaluation, the winners of the Booze Brawl Cocktail Competition 2023 were announced:

- 1st Place – A.I.T. Weerasena (2019 Batch)
- 2nd Place – W.A.D.S.S. Sanjana (2019 Batch)
- 3rd Place (Tie) – D.D.A. Madushan (2019 Batch)
- 3rd Place (Tie) – T.M.C.S. Thennakoon (2019 Batch)

The "Booze Brawl Cocktail Competition 2023" not only celebrated the art of mixology but also showcased the dedication and skills of Rajarata University's undergraduates. It served as a platform for these budding talents to shine while fostering a spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie. The event was a true testament to the university's commitment to excellence in the field of hospitality and its unwavering support for students in their pursuit of knowledge and innovation.



## SANCHARAKA UDAWA 2023

The 'Tourism Dawn 2023' Tourism Product Meet, organized by the Sri Lanka Domestic Tour Operators Association (SLAITO), took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023, at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Exhibition Hall, BMICH. The primary goal of this event was to bridge the gap between lesser-known segments of the tourism industry and key players. Six students and two lecturers actively participated in this event, providing them with the opportunity to network with industry experts and the public, forming valuable connections. Moreover, it opened doors for aspiring students from colleges and universities to explore future prospects. During the event, representatives from the Department of Tourism and Hospitality shared comprehensive insights about the degree program, highlighting the diverse career paths available within the tourism and hospitality sector. Notably, they showcased the achievements of graduates who have risen to prominence in the field.





**Rajarata University's Igy-global Village Journey - Celebrating Diversity and Unity**

From August 3rd to August 5th, 2023, the TOHOMA Association and AIESEC in Rajarata University collaborated to organize the IGV-Global Village project, guided by Mrs. Nishala Abeywickrama, Senior Lecturer, Head of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management. This event facilitated a cultural exchange between five foreign students from Turkey, Pakistan, and Egypt.

The project kicked off with a warm welcome ceremony hosted by the 2021 batch of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management. Local students showcased Sri Lankan hospitality, offering Lotus flowers and traditional Ceylon Tea. The foreign students shared insights into Ceylon Tea and Sri Lankan traditional costumes, fostering cultural exchange. Traditional drum music, performances by university students, and a Sri Lankan dinner created a joyful atmosphere.

On the second day, the 2020 batch of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management led an engaging tour, visiting Mihinthale Wewa and the Administrative Building. The event was a collaborative success, exemplifying the power of cultural exchange.

In summary, the IGV-Global Village project in August 2023 at Rajarata University celebrated unity, friendship, and cultural exchange. It marked a vibrant chapter in the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management's history, leaving participants with cherished memories.



**Mal Dansala - A Meritorius Deed**

In May 2023, students from the 2021 batch of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management of Faculty of Management Studies organized a special event called "Mal Dansala" at the Ruwanweli Seya Premises. They set it up near the Ruwanweli Stupa. The main goal was to bring their community closer together and help pilgrims. It wasn't just about giving flowers; it was about sharing kindness and togetherness. By doing this, the students showed how coming together as a community can make a positive difference. It was a special moment of care and unity that left a lasting impression on everyone involved.



**Field Visit to Occidental Paradise Hotel – Dambulla**

An industry field visit organized by the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management of the Faculty of Management Studies, for the students of 2021 batch was executed successfully this year. The field visit took place at Occidental Paradise Hotel in Dambulla on 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. Throughout the hotel visit, students gained valuable insights and practical experience for their future careers in the industry. The organizers arranged informative sessions for the front office, housekeeping, and food and beverage departments, providing a comprehensive introduction to the processes and operations of the hotel. One particularly interesting aspect was a table setting session, where students learned how to set tables for various course menus and even engaged in role-playing scenarios on serving wine to customers. This hands-on experience was invaluable, offering a glimpse into the diverse departments and the exceptional service that hospitality workers provide to hotel guests. This visit provided an incredible opportunity to explore various facets of the hotel industry and gain a deeper understanding of the exceptional service provided to guests by hoteliers.





### Property Management System Workshop

The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management at the Faculty of Management, Rajarata University, Sri Lanka, successfully organized a one-day workshop on the topic of "Property Management Systems (PMS)." The workshop took place in the faculty auditorium on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, starting at 9 am.

Mr. Caveen Sidaarth, the Brand Manager of Boost Hotels Software Solutions, participated as the resource person via the Zoom platform. He aimed to enhance the student's knowledge about Property Management Systems for front office and restaurant operations. During the session, Mr. Caveen Sidaarth highlighted the significance of PMS, which stands for Property Management System, within a hotel's operations. PMS is crucial for tasks such as booking reservations, planning check-in and check-out times, and overall management. It can be either automated or manual, depending on the hotel's specific needs. The workshop also covered how to input and delete data, manage reservations, place orders for different sections like the kitchen and bar, and check room availability using PMS.

It's worth mentioning that Mr. Janidu Chathuranga, the Professional Skill Coordinator, coordinated this event under the supervision of Mrs. KTNPAbeywickrama, the Head of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management.



### Workshop on Leadership Development for 2021 Batch - Empower Yourself to be a Great Leader

A one-day indoor and outdoor workshop on the topic of "Leadership Development" was successfully organized by Mr. Janidu Chathuranga, Professional Skill Coordinator – I of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management, Rajarata University, Sri Lanka. The workshop took place in the university's faculty auditorium and the outdoor activity area on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023, from 8:30 am onwards. Mr. Suranga Tennakoon, who served as a consultant, motivator, trainer, and lecturer, acted as the resource person for this program. The main objective was to enhance students' knowledge and develop their leadership skills through various sub-topics and indoor and outdoor activities. During his two sessions, each lasting five hours, Mr. Suranga Tennakoon shared his ideas and activities centered on the theme of "Empower yourself to be a great leader." He drew from his personal experiences, leadership development activities, and insights from the current social environment. Additionally, he organized several games aimed at improving students' leadership skills. The students provided positive feedback, indicating that they had gained new insights and skills related to the topic, which they can apply in their lives.



### Getting Ready for the Interviews - Workshop for Final Year undergraduates

The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management at the Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, conducted a series of workshops aimed at enhancing the interview performance of final-year undergraduates. These workshops included sessions on CV preparation, "Getting Ready for the Interviews," and mock interview sessions featuring industry experts. The workshops took place on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, within the university premises.





### Medical Screening Programme for the Undergraduates of the Academic Year 2022

Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized a Medical Screening Programme for the Undergraduates of the Academic Year 2022 under the AURORA 2022 (Undergraduates Orientation Programme) held on 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, at the Management Faculty. This free screening program was developed to promote the health and well-being of our students and help them start their academic year with a healthy body and mind. This Medical Screening Programme was hosted by Senior Lecturer Mrs. Nishala Abeywickrama.

The medical screening program included a comprehensive review of medical history, full eye test, BMI, random blood sugar test, blood pressure test, and screening for Thalassemia and Kidney Disease. This is also an opportunity for students to meet with our healthcare providers and discuss any health concerns. The goal of this program was to identify potential health risks and provide the necessary resources and support to mitigate them.



### Rajarata University Student Makes History with UN Sustainable Goal 8 Project in Egypt

Kavinga Chandrasena, a Rajarata University student, achieved a remarkable milestone as the first representative from his university to join a 45-day volunteer program in Egypt through AIESEC. Kavinga's mission was to support the United Nations Sustainable Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth by promoting tourism in Egypt.



### Official Facebook Page of the Department of Human Resource Management

The official Facebook page of the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) was created on the 05<sup>th</sup> of July 2020 to maintain an online presence, communicate effectively, engage with the community, and contribute to a positive and vibrant educational environment. At present, the page has 2,200 likes with **2,500 followers**. As of July 2023, over 100 posts have been shared on the page. Further, the Facebook page has five major albums for students' creativity, namely 'The Beyond': the album to share opinion articles written by DHRM undergraduates; 'Thelithuda': the album to share students' creative poems, songs, and artwork; 'Quote of the Week': the album to share a motivational quote written by scholars/ DHRM staff members or undergraduates; 'Life's Moments': the album to share creative captures or photographs; 'Importance of the Day': the album to share the importance of each day of the year.

This official Facebook page serves as a fast platform for communication with students, faculty, staff, human resource professionals, alumni, potential collaborators, and the broader community. It allows the DHRM to disseminate important information such as upcoming events, academic news, policy changes, deadlines, seminars, conferences, workshops and webinars, CSR projects, and other relevant announcements.



## Athwala

The Athwala seminar series, organized by the Medical Students Union of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, aimed to enhance the theoretical knowledge and exam preparation of Advanced Level students in the Biology stream in the Anuradhapura district. It took place on the 10th, 12th, and 14th of January 2023, utilizing Zoom technology. This conference series covered three subjects: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and included question paper discussions.

## Wadiye Padura 2023

An acoustic cultural and musical evening, organized by the Medical Students Union of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, was held on the 27th of January, 2023, at the Faculty premises. The event featured the participation of medical students and members of the academic and non-academic staff. With the aim of promoting and enhancing the appreciation of classical music within the medical student and faculty community, the evening was filled with a variety of songs, various dances, and a drama. The performances of the evening left the audience mesmerized, thanks to the rare selection of songs that included highlights of Sri Lankan cultural music.



## A New Study Uncovered a Long History of Leishmaniasis in the Country

A new study led by the Department of Clinical Medicine (DoCM) of Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences has unveiled a long history of Leishmaniasis in the country. The disease, which is caused by a parasite and primarily affects the skin and mucous membranes, was widely believed to have emerged in Sri Lanka in the 1990s. The research team examined the Annual Administration Reports of Ceylon/Sri Lanka from 1895 to 1970 and the Ceylon Blue Book from 1821 to 1937, official historical documents that provide annual records of performance, progress, goals achieved, and finances of Sri Lanka during that time. Both of these documents are available in the National Archives. The study found that the Ceylon Administrative Report of 1904 reports a full record of the observation of Leishman-Donovan bodies in Sri Lanka for the first time. These reports contain a total of 33,438 cases of leishmaniasis in the years 1928 to 1938, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960, and 1961 to 1962. Up to 1938, the term "cutaneous leishmaniasis" was used, and after 1938, the term "leishmaniasis" was used in these reports. "Kala-azar" was also mentioned in 11 administrative reports between 1900 and 1947. In 1947, an extensive vector study was carried out where they reported kala-azar cases. This well-documented government health information clearly shows that the history of leishmaniasis is nearly identical to the global history in which the first case with Leishman-Donovan bodies was reported in 1903.

According to the researchers, this study emphasizes the importance of examining historical records when studying the emergence of diseases. It also suggests that Leishmaniasis has likely been present in Sri Lanka for centuries and that the disease may have been overlooked or underreported in the past. The findings of this study are important in the fight against Leishmaniasis as they provide a better understanding of the disease's history and distribution in Sri Lanka. With this knowledge, health officials and researchers at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka can develop more effective strategies for preventing, diagnosing, and treating the disease in the country.



**Series of Lectures for Medical Officers Preparing for the Post Graduate**

The Department of Community Medicine conducted the 100th session of the continuing education program on statistics and epidemiology for medical officers preparing for postgraduate examinations. This session took place on the 8th of February 2023, utilizing Zoom technology. The lecture series included theory sessions and question paper discussions.



**Professorship**

“Dr. S.P.B. Thalaspitiya, a Senior Lecturer in the Surgery department, was promoted to the position of Professor in Surgery effective from February 2023. Prof. S.P.B. Thalaspitiya joined the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences in 2006 as a Lecturer in Surgery. He has made significant contributions to the development of the faculty and has devoted considerable effort to establishing the Professorial Unit within the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences at Rajarata University in Sri Lanka. He has played a major role in the establishment of the Surgery department and has excelled in his medical career through extensive research.”



**Jeewaka Yathra 2023**

"Jeewaka Yathra," the largest outreach health program organized by the Medical Students Union of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, was successfully held in 2023 for the 13th consecutive year, under the motto "to take you to a healthy future." Jeewaka Yathra was organized to serve thousands of people who visit the sacred Ruwanweli Saya premises. The program, held for two consecutive days, benefited more than 2,000 pilgrims.





**Children's Activity Centre**

The department of community medicine opened a children's activity centre in a village in the Anuradhapura district. The opening ceremony, held on February 16, 2023, was graced by the chief guest, Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, the Vice-Chancellor of Rajarata University, Prof. Kosala Weerakoon, representing the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Dr. Muditha Amarasinghe, an additional medical officer of health in the respective Medical Officer of Health area, and several other government officials at the village level.

Interventions targeting the prenatal and early childhood periods are known to provide the best returns on investment for health and well-being. The lack of awareness, commitment, and resources to provide optimal early childhood care and development for children was identified as one of the priority problems in this village. The village children did not have a nearby preschool to attend, and most could not afford to reach one. As part of the two-year-long continuous provision of support for early childhood development at the family and community levels, the department embarked on renovating an abandoned building in the village temple, turning it into a spacious room decorated with hand-drawn pictures and crafts, as well as stickers and wall posters. The space was furnished with custom-made, colorful, child-friendly furniture. The surroundings were cleaned, new play items were installed for children, and trees were planted for each child to bring eco-concepts to the project. Ironing out the visible socio-economic disparities among the attendees, stationery items, arts and crafts materials, first-aid kits, brain-stimulating toys, a uniform, and shoes were all provided to each child attending the child activity center under the patronage of different donors. The thero of the village temple, parents who wished to send their young children to the activity center, other concerned villagers, and volunteering medical students worked in cooperation with the department members to make these efforts a success. Ensuring further community engagement and ownership, the activity center is now run by an instructor and governed by a mother's group from the same village, while the department provides continuous supportive supervision. Marking its success, 22 children were enrolled in the activity center on the inauguration day.

We would like to acknowledge the support of many donors who personally contributed to this effort (anonymously) over a two-year period, the Venerable thero of the village temple, the university, and the faculty, all the academic and non-academic staff of the Department of Community Medicine, temporary lecturers, and demonstrators who worked with the department, Dr. Asiri Hewamalage of the Family Health Bureau, Loving Care Preschool, doctors of the MOH division, the public health midwife of the area, medical students of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, and Rajarata University for making this effort a success. We hope the activity center will open up endless opportunities for early learning for the psychosocial development of village children, shaping them into healthy, intelligent, and well-nurtured future citizens of the country





### Koul Wasanthaya 2023

A New Year function organized by the Medical Students Union of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences was held on the 30th of April 2023 at the Faculty premises, with the participation of medical students. The event aimed to enhance the entertainment and relaxation of students and featured a variety of traditional New Year games, dances, and songs.



### Inter Faculty sports tournament

As a major sports event at the university, the Inter-Faculty Tournament for the year 2023 was started in March. We achieved four first places, two second places, and four third places. We were crowned champions in hockey, carrom, chess, table tennis, and football.





### Dharma Pradeepa – Monthly Dharma Deshana

The Student Union of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka conducts a monthly Dharma Deshana session with the participation of all academic staff members and students. This meritorious practice has been ongoing for many years.

The primary purpose of this practice is to train students' minds to respond to stress and conflicts they may encounter in a healthy manner.



### Professorship

Dr. Nuwan Dharshana Wickramasinghe has been promoted to the position of Professor in Community Medicine. Dr. Wickramasinghe has undoubtedly achieved remarkable milestones throughout his career. Starting as a Lecturer Probationary in the Department of Community Medicine in 2010, Dr. Wickramasinghe has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise in the field. His commitment to learning and professional development led him to become a board-certified consultant in Community Medicine and a Senior Lecturer. These achievements reflect his profound knowledge and substantial contributions to the field of community medicine.

Dr. Wickramasinghe's academic excellence is further highlighted by his recognition as the best PGIM student in the category of masters and diplomas. Additionally, his 74 full-paper publications in peer-reviewed indexed journals signify his significant contributions to research in the field of community medicine. These publications underscore his expertise and the impact of his work on the scientific community.

Moreover, Dr. Wickramasinghe's research efforts have received extensive recognition, as evidenced by his receipt of more than 20 research awards. These awards validate the high quality and importance of his research contributions. His dedication to advancing knowledge and improving public health is truly commendable.

Furthermore, Dr. Wickramasinghe has actively engaged in national and international public health consultancies. His participation in these consultancies highlights his expertise and ability to contribute to public health initiatives on a broader scale. He has unquestionably made a positive impact on the field of community medicine, both locally and globally.

Notably, Dr. Wickramasinghe has played a vital role in the institutional development of his university, particularly during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. His remarkable involvement in the university's COVID-19 preparedness activities showcases his leadership and commitment to public health. His contributions have undoubtedly helped ensure the well-being and safety of the university community.





**Workshops on Enhancing the Academic Career**

The Society of Archaeology and Heritage Management in the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities organized a series of academic workshops in 2023 to enhance students' academic knowledge and skills. The first workshop took place on February 24, 2023, in Hall No. 20 of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, with the resource assistance of Vipula Thero, Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Languages. The workshop focussed on "Using Sources and Language in Research Papers" and was successfully attended by students from the Society of Archaeology and Heritage Management, as well as numerous other academics.



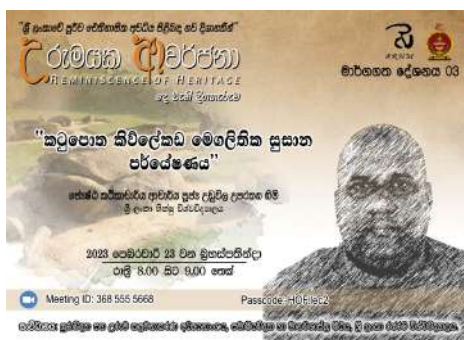
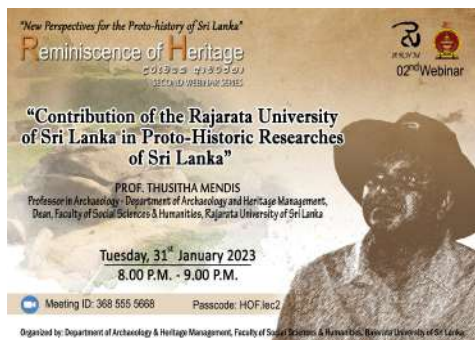
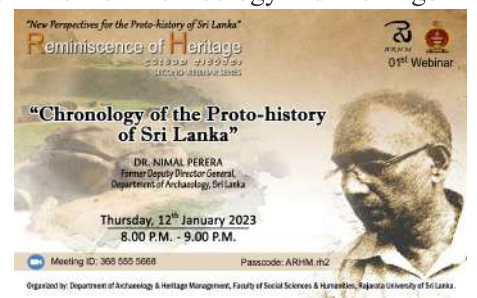
**Rajarata Kavaya - Discussion Session**

'Rajarata Kavaya' is an open discussion session organized as a weekly activity by the Society of Archeology and Heritage Management with the aim of developing the knowledge, attitude, and skills of the students. Through this discussion session, students can share their knowledge and experience from the fieldwork and research they are involved in, share the challenges faced by the students in their individual research with other people, and exchange knowledge about political, economic, and social contexts through a conversational manner. The first session was held on the 08th of May 2023 at 5.30 pm by the final year students and they shared their experience gained through the excavation of the Janakapura megalithic burial site with other junior batches.



**Reminiscence of Heritage (2nd Stage) - Webinar Series**

The 2nd stage of the 'Reminiscence of Heritage' Webinar Series, organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities was started in January, 2023 under the theme of 'New perspective for the Proto-history of Sri Lanka.' 04 webinars have been presented so far connecting with the public audience and hope it will be an enlightenment for the studies of proto-history in our country.





### Museum Session for Schools in Anuradhapura

Dr. Siran U. Deraniyagala Research Museum is not only for internal research purposes but also for accelerating the programs based on public awareness. As one of these programs, a museum session was held on the 28th of April 2023 for students of schools in the Anuradhapura area. The session was based on pre-history, proto-history, and early history of Sri Lanka and it was assisted by undergraduates enrolled in the honors degree program in Archaeology and Heritage Management.



### Saved as Resource Persons

Prof.TGA.Thalwatte, Dr.Nandana Millagala, and Mr.Prasad Kumara served as resource persons for the School concert for O/L Students- Viharamahadewi Girls Collage, Kandy on 25.01.2023.

Prof.TGA.Thalwatte served as a resource person for the School seminars for O/L Students- Pujapitiya M.V. Kandy on 17.03.2023.

Mr.MA.Prasad Kumara served as a resource person for the School seminars for O/L Students- Viharamahadewi Girls School, Anuradhapura, on 26.01.2023.

Mrs. W.A.L.P. Dilhara, Lecturer in the Department of Humanities, delivered the first lecture of the monthly lecture series 2023, which was organized by the Research and Publication Committee of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 2023.

Mrs. W.A.L.P. Dilhara, Lecturer in the Department of Humanities served as a resource person for the Jathika Pasala Educational Programs broadcasted in Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation.

Mrs. W.A.L.P. Dilhara served as a resource person for the School seminars for O/L Students.

Mr.MA.Prasad Kumara and Mrs. W.A.L.P. Dilhara worked as resource persons for the School seminars for O/L Students- Anuradhapura Central School on 25.04.2023.

Prof.TGA. Thalwatte and Mr.MA.Prasad Kumara, served as resource persons for the "Jewithayata Ida Denna" programme at Sirasa T.V. -16.03.2023.

Prof.TGA. Thalwatte, Lecturer in the Department of Humanities served as a resource person for the Sanhida T.V program, Rupavahini cooperation-24.03.2023.

"Sankathana" Monthly Lecture Series- Online (Cordinator-Mr.MA. Prasad Kumara)- 24.01. 2023.

A guest lecture was conducted by Professor Osmund Boppearachchi on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2023.



### Artifact Exhibition

In association with the book launching of Janakapura Megalithic Mortuary Complex; Excavation Report 2022, an artifact exhibition was organized in the Dr. Siran U. Deraniyagala Research Museum of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and it contained the artifacts retrieved from different archaeological researches conducted by the department since 2013. Significantly, the exhibition was filled with rare material facts that belonged to the period between Pre-historic and Early-historic era. As well, this is the first exhibition that revealed the archaeological findings reported from Janakapura megalithic burial site to the public.



### Archaeo-Theatre Movie and Documentary Exhibition

The Society of Archaeology and Heritage Management in the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities initiated a weekly movie and documentary exhibition titled "Archaeo-Theatre" on February 22, 2023. This represents a modest endeavor aimed at cultivating well-rounded graduates enriched with wisdom and humanity. The association's objective is to showcase a variety of subject-related movies and documentaries with national and international themes.

ARCHAEO  
Theatre



### Department of Economics Launches "Research Readiness" Online Webinar Series

The Department of Economics is excited to announce the launch of its new webinar series, "Research Readiness," aimed at equipping researchers with essential skills and knowledge. The series commenced on March 31, 2023, with the first webinar titled "Utilizing Google Forms for Preparing Questionnaires" conducted by Dr. S.K. Illangarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

Following the successful inaugural webinar, the second session, held on April 7, 2023, explored the topics of "Qualitative and Quantitative Research." conducted by Professor R.P.I.R. Prasanna. The webinar shared insights and methodologies during this engaging session.

Continuing the momentum, the department hosted the third webinar on April 28, 2023, with Professor R.H. Kuruppuge from the University of Peradeniya. The session delved into "Hypotheses Development and Conceptual Model Development," providing attendees with valuable guidance on constructing robust research frameworks.

The webinars have been instrumental in fostering a research-driven mindset among participants, encouraging innovative exploration within the field of economics. These insightful sessions have been organized under the guidance of the Head of the Department, Professor S.K. Naradda Gamage.

The "Research Readiness" webinar series reflects the department's commitment to promoting a culture of research excellence and equipping scholars with the necessary tools to undertake impactful studies. Stay tuned for future sessions as the department continues to empower researchers and advance knowledge in the field of economics.



### Launches "Guruda Arthika Sakachcha" for In-Depth Economic Discourse

The Department of Economics is pleased to introduce "Guruda Arthika Sakachcha," a platform for insightful discussions on current economic issues. The series began on March 28, 2023, with a lecture on the new tax policy and IMF by Professors SK Naradda Gamage and RPIR Prasanna from the Department of Economics of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Following this, the second lecture on IMF conditions for Sri Lankan economic recovery was held on April 4, 2023, featuring Professor SWGK Bulankulama and Mr. Kolitha Nissanka Bandara, who provided valuable insights into pressing economic matters. The third lecture on April 27, 2023, explored different options for Sri Lankan economic recovery from the current crisis, with expertise from Dr. Prageeth Weerasingha of the Faculty of Management Studies. Under the leadership of the Head of the Department, Professor SK Naradda Gamage, "Guruda Arthika Sakachcha" seeks to promote intellectual discourse and critical thinking among students and faculty.

These engaging lectures have sparked vibrant discussions, encouraging participants to delve deeper into current economic challenges and explore potential solutions. The Department of Economics remains committed to facilitating knowledge-sharing and understanding of contemporary economic issues. Stay tuned for upcoming lectures as we continue our journey toward economic enlightenment.

### Donation to the Cancer Ward of Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital

The Department of Humanities in collaboration with the Department of Languages donated the necessities for the patients in the Anuradhapura Cancer ward. The donation was held in the Anuradhapura Hospital, on the 05<sup>th</sup> of January, 2023. The Head of the Department of Humanities participated in the event with the academic staff members from the Department of Humanities and Department of Languages.



### Prof. Sedat from Cankiri Karatekin University Delivers a Successful Guest Lecture on Development Economics

The Department of Economics of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities welcomed Prof. Sedat from Cankiri Karatekin University, Turkey, for an insightful guest lecture on development economics. The event, held on April 19, 2023, at the Soft Skills Laboratory, drew the participation of BA Hons in Economics students. Prof. Sedat's expertise and engaging teaching style left a lasting impact on the attendees, providing them with valuable insights into the dynamics of economic development. The lecture fostered an environment of knowledge exchange and inspired the students to delve deeper into the field. The success of the event highlighted the university's commitment to providing holistic education to its students.

### Workshop on Mural Conservation

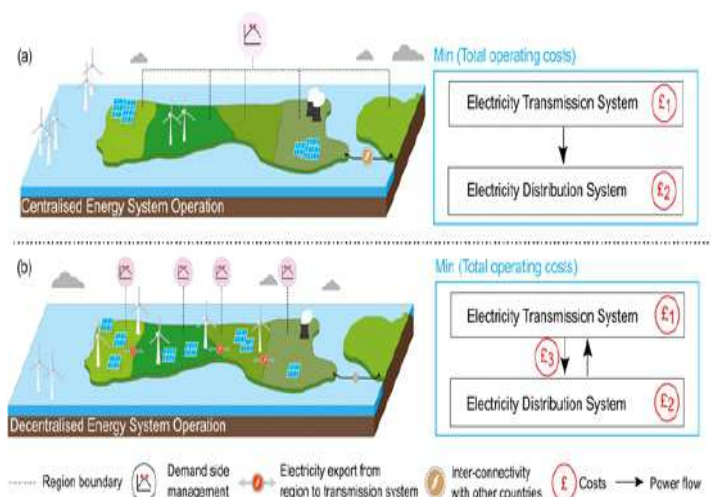
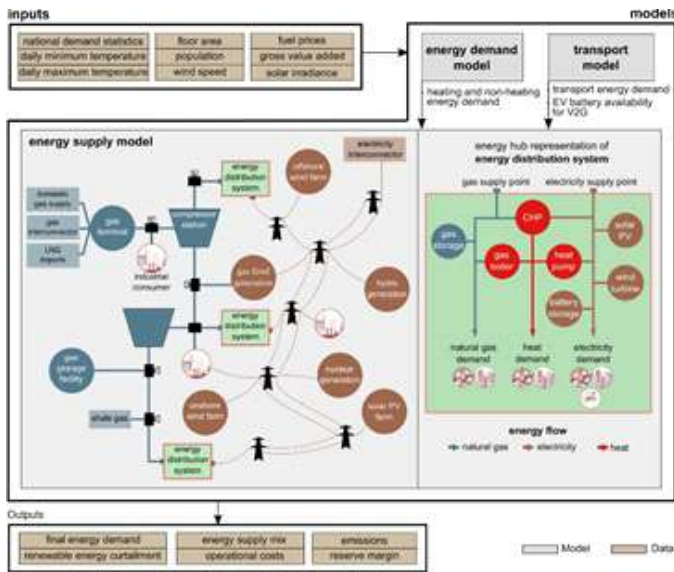
The students of 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Department of Archeology and Heritage Management, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities participated in the mural conservation workshop organized by the Central Cultural Fund - Dambulla project in association with mural conservation course. It was held at Dr. Roland Silva Mural Conservation and Research Centre, Dambulla on 09<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. The workshop was mainly focussed on traditional mural design techniques and the use of traditional colors in mural conservation. The staff members of the Central Cultural Fund - Dambulla project contributed as resource persons and the students were also given permission to visit the special store of paintings. Also they were taught about the artifact management system used in the museum of paintings.





**Paper Publication by Dr. L. T. Jayasuriya - Department of Electrical and Electronic Technology**

Chaudry, M., Jayasuriya, L., Hall, J. W., Jenkins, N., Eyre, N., & Eggimann, S. (2023). Simulating flexibility, variability and decentralization with an integrated energy system model for Great Britain. *Nature Scientific Reports*, 13, 4772.



**"Mushroom Marvels: Workshop on Fungal Phylogenetics and Photography Unveils Secrets of the Mycological World"**

A five-day workshop on fungal phylogenetics, mushroom identification, photography, and image post-production was conducted at the Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University from July 20 to July 25, 2023. This workshop was organized by the Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka as part of the ADB STHRD R3RJ2 research project titled "Capacity building, research collaborations, innovations, and downstream applications in Mycological Biotechnology."

The workshop aimed to train researchers and students in mushroom sampling, phylogenetic analysis of fungi, mushroom and microfungi photography, and enhancing images for record-keeping to meet SCI journal standards. It also aimed to share knowledge among invited mycologists from various institutes. The workshop saw participation from 50 attendees, including mycologists from state institutes and universities, researchers, students, and project scientists.

The resource persons for the workshop included Stephen Axford, Catherine Marciniak, and Alison Kelly from "Planet Fungi," a team with over a decade of experience in documenting fungi. The session on fungal phylogenetics and mushroom identification was led by Dr. Aseni Ediriweera and Professor Nalin Wijayawardene, renowned mycologists in Sri Lanka.

The workshop was highly successful, equipping participants with valuable skills and knowledge in fungal phylogenetics, mushroom identification, photography, and post-production.





## Meet Our Newly Appointed Temporary Demonstrators

It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that we announce the well-deserved appointments of three exceptional individuals to the esteemed role of Temporary Demonstrators.



Ms. M. W. D. Pramodya was appointed as a Temporary Demonstrator in the Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, effective from March 2, 2023. She holds a BBST Honours degree in Bioprocess Technology from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Ms. D.M.N.M. Gunasekara was appointed as a Temporary Demonstrator in the Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, effective from May 2, 2023. She holds a BBST Honours degree in Bioprocess Technology from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Ms. D.M.G.I. Dissanayake was appointed as a Temporary Demonstrator in the Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, effective from March 2, 2023. She holds a B. Sc. Special degree in Applied Biology (Specialization area: Microbiology) from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Ms. D.A.Y.N. Dissanayaka was appointed as a Temporary Demonstrator in the Department of Bioprocess Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, effective from March 2, 2023. She holds a BBST Honours degree in Bioprocess Technology from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Mr. W. T. Jayalath recently graduated from the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with a Bachelor of Engineering Technology Honours Degree in Materials Technology with Second Class Upper Division honors. He was also awarded the Prof. B.A.Karunaratne Gold Medal For Most Meritorious Student in Materials Technology. Mr. Jayalath was appointed to his current position on March 1, 2023.



Miss. K. A. N. P. Thilakarathne is a recent graduate of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, where she earned a Bachelor of Engineering Technology Honors Degree in Materials Technology with Second Class Upper Division honors and an overall GPA of 3.40. She was appointed to her current position on March 1, 2023.



Mr. G. G. S. B. K. Dharmarathne is a highly accomplished student in materials technology. He recently graduated from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with a Bachelor of Engineering Technology Honors Degree in Materials Technology with Second Class Upper Division honors and an overall GPA of 3.35. He was also awarded the Prof. B.A.Karunaratne Gold Medal For Best Researcher in Materials Technology. Mr. Dharmarathne was appointed to his current position recently.



D.M.G.D.S. Kumari is a proud graduate, holding a Bachelor of Information Communication Technology (Hons) degree from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. She plays a crucial role in our department by conducting practical sessions in various subjects, including Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Object-Oriented Programming (OOP), productivity tools, and web technology. Kumari's commitment to hands-on learning and her ability to impart practical knowledge will undoubtedly benefit our students, providing them with valuable skills and insights into the world of technology.



### The New Head of the Department: Mr. Wiraj Wickramaarachchi

We are honored to introduce Mr. Wiraj Wickramaarachchi as the newly appointed Head of the Department of Information and Communication Technology, the very first Senior Lecturer of the Department of Information and Communication Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Mr. Wickramaarachchi's remarkable academic journey includes a Doctor of Engineering (DEng) degree in Computer Science and Technology at Wuhan University of Technology, China, which he is pursuing. Alongside, he has achieved a Master of Engineering (MEng) degree in Computer Science and Technology from the same institution in 2018. His strong educational foundation began with a Bachelor of Science (Special Honors) in Computing & Information Systems from Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka in 2015.



Mr. Wickramaarachchi is not only a distinguished scholar but also an active contributor to professional organizations, holding memberships in both the IEEE Sri Lankan Section and the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (MCSSL). With his profound knowledge, dedication to academia and active engagement in professional associations, we are confident that Mr. Wickramaarachchi will lead our department to new heights, fostering innovation, excellence, and a nurturing academic environment for our students. Join us in welcoming him as the visionary leader of our department.

### Receipt of Two University Research Grants for the Department of Food Technology

The Department of Food Technology received two university research grants for two research projects which are successfully in progress by now.

1. Arrowroot: Characterization of starch and fiber and development of value-added products
  - Grantee: Dr. R.K. Ahinsa
  - Amount: Rs. 195,000.00
  - Grant period: 12 months
2. Co-encapsulation of anthocyanin from Clitoria ternatea flower and developing a carbonated soft drink
  - Grantee: Dr. R.K. Ahinsa
  - Amount: Rs. 150,000
  - Grant period: 12 months

### Receipt of Two UBL Mini Research Grants for the Department of Food Technology

The Department of Food Technology received two university research grants for two research projects which are successfully in progress by now.

1. Development of an Instant Beverage Mix Using Jackfruit Seed Flour
  - Grantee: Dr. R. K. Ahinsa
  - Amount: LKR 100,000.00
  - Grant period: Three months
2. Development and evaluation of water lily seed flour incorporated rusk
  - Grantee: Dr. R. K. Ahinsa
  - Amount: LKR 100,000.00
  - Grant period: Three months

### Academic progress and student activities of the Department of Food Technology

All undergraduates in the 2016/2017 Department of Food Technology batch received their BBST (Hons) Degree in Food Technology during the 23rd General Convocation of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on July 26, 2023. During this convocation, Ms. S. G. N. M. Sirisena was honored with the Maria Orosa Gold Medal for her exceptional performance in Food Technology.

The undergraduates in the 2017/2018 batch Department of Food Technology batch successfully completed their 24-week industrial training by April 2023. Their training encompassed various organizations and sectors within the food industry, including dairy processing, bakery, tea processing, meat processing, and research institutes like the National Institute of Post-Harvest Management and Industrial Training Institute.





## Appointment of Dr. W.M.M.D. Bandara as a Senior Lecturer Gr. II

Dr. W.M.M.D. Bandara assumed her duties as a Senior Lecturer Gr. II in Chemistry attached to the Department of Food Technology, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. She holds a B.Sc. Honors degree in Chemistry from the University of Peradeniya and a Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry at the University of Missouri - St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri, USA.



## Congratulations to Our New Temporary Lecturers

We are delighted to announce and celebrate the promotion of two exceptional individuals within our organization to the prestigious role of Temporary Lecturers. These promotions represent their remarkable achievements and our unwavering commitment to nurturing and recognizing talents from within our ranks.



Mr. A. Y. T. Mayadunna recently graduated from the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, where he earned a Bachelor of Engineering Technology Honours in Materials Technology with Second Class Upper Division honors. He was appointed on March 1, 2023.



Ms. Udani Jayakody holds a Bachelor of Information Communication Technology honors degree from the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. She is currently engaging in pursuing a Master of Science in Information Technology at the University of Moratuwa.



Husni Mohamed, with a Bachelor of Information Communication Technology from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and currently, he engaged in pursuing a Master of Science in Information Technology at the SLIIT.



Mrs. H.P.G.A. Sewwandi is graduated from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with a Bachelor of Engineering Technology Honours Degree in Materials Technology. She was awarded two gold medals for most Meritorious Student in Materials Technology and For Highest

Cumulative GPA for the courses in the field of Ceramic Technology.

## Library News

### In-house Training Sessions on MS Office Package

The Library System at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized two in-house training sessions with the aim of enhancing the digital skills of its staff members. The sessions were conducted between January and June 2023, with the first one held on March 3, 2023, focusing on the MS Office Package, specifically MS Excel. The second workshop took place on May 25, 2023, concentrating on the MS Office Package, with a special emphasis on MS PowerPoint. The target audience for these training sessions included Library Information Assistants, Library Attendants, and Bookbinders. The esteemed resource person for both training sessions was Dr. S.K. Ilangaratne, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Technology Library of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The Library System of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka is committed to providing its staff with opportunities to enhance their digital literacy and stay abreast of the latest technological advancements.



### Library Workshop for Undergraduates

A workshop on “Digital tools for research: Developing digital information literacy skills for research” was successfully conducted for the students in the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Management Studies, on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The primary objectives of the workshop encompassed motivating students to apply information and digital literacy skills in their university education, educating them with online databases subscribed by the University Grants Commission, introducing valuable web links to support research endeavors, and encouraging the utilization of freely available IT tools for research purposes. Technical expertise for the workshop was provided by Ms. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Acting Librarian, and Ms. Malithi Jayasooriya, Assistant Librarian of the Main Library.

### Workshops Conducted by the IT Center

Conducting technical workshops for the university community through the IT center yields numerous advantages. These workshops provide a platform for participants to gain hands-on experience and expertise in specific technical domains. By imparting practical skills, these workshops prepare students, faculty, and staff for the demands of an increasingly technology-driven world. Ultimately, these workshops not only enhance the technical proficiency of the university community but also contribute to a culture of innovation and problem-solving, empowering individuals to make valuable contributions in their academic pursuits and beyond through conducting workshops in collaboration with the Staff Development Center.



### Workshop on Computers and Peripherals Maintenance

A workshop on Computers and Peripherals Maintenance, held on the 26th and 27th of January 2023 at the IT Centre Laboratory, was a significant and highly beneficial event. This comprehensive workshop encompassed the essential aspects of repairing and maintaining various computer peripherals, including printers, laptops, desktop computers, and uninterruptible power supplies (UPS). The workshop was conducted by experts from BaseHP company, lending their valuable insights and expertise in the field. A total of 35 technical officers representing diverse faculties across the institution enthusiastically participated in this workshop. Their active engagement and commitment to acquiring and honing these vital maintenance skills underscored the importance of such capacity-building initiatives within the university community.



### Rajarata University Staff Sports Day

The staff members of the Rajarata University gathered at the university playground on May 9, 2023, to take part in the inaugural Rajarata University Staff Sports Day. This event featured a wide array of sports, including cricket, badminton, netball, track and field, and carrom, engaging both academic and non-academic staff members from all faculties and the main administrative building. The visionary behind this initiative was the University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Mrs.) GAS Ginigaddara. The event was meticulously organized by the university's Physical Education Department and Sports Council. The primary objectives of this event were to strengthen connections among staff members across faculties and provide a refreshing break from the daily workplace pressures. An awards ceremony, attended by the Vice Chancellor, all faculty deans, the acting director of the Physical Education Department, the Chairman of the Sports Council, and the university's registrar, took place in the evening at the university's indoor stadium.





