



# Newsletter

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New Building Complex of Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages

## SUCCESS OF THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LANGUAGES

The 1<sup>st</sup> stage of the faculty building of the FSSL was vested to the university community on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The Chief Guest of the occasion was Prof. Mahinda S. Rupasinghe, the Vice Chancellor, accompanied by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, Prof. H.M. Suranjan Priyanath and the members of the staff. The foundation stone for the second stage of the faculty building was laid by the

Vice Chancellor. This was followed by a *pirith pinkama* and *Dhana* for *Maha sanga* organized by the students and the staff of the faculty.

The Department of Economics and Statistics was ceremonially opened by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mahinda S. Rupasinghe and the first Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. J.W. Dayananda Somasundara on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009. The inaugural lecture of the department was done by Prof. J.W.D. Somasundara on "A Global Economic Crisis and the Economy of Sri Lanka".

## CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY 2009 – EDPESU

The External Degree Program and Extension Services Unit (EDPESU) held its Certificate Awarding Ceremony 2009 on Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2009 under the auspices of the Director of EDPESU, Mr. S. Jasinha. The number of awardees was 1107, and thus, there were two sessions; one in the morning and the other, afternoon. The awardees included the recipients of bachelor degree, Diplomas and certificates. The Chief Guest was the Vice Chancellor, Professor

Mahinda S. Rupasinghe. Also present at the occasion were the coordinators of the relevant courses, lecturers and parents.



## FACULTY IS TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN MANAGING THE WELIGAMA COCONUT WILT DISEASE

The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences will involve in the management of the Weligama Coconut wilt (a disease) by implementing appropriate management practices. The scientists from the faculty, Dr. A.A.Y. Amarasinghe, Dr. Lal P Vidhana Arachchi and Dr. D.M.A. Gunaratne, were able to convince the Minister of Plantation in managing the problem concerning different management practices – which will be effectively implemented to evaluate the ability of affected palms for quick recovery or improvement by strengthening the vigor of the palms. The Minister of Plantation and the Scientific Advisor to the minister were highly satisfied with the research programme submitted by the Faculty to be funded by the FAO through the Ministry of Plantation.

## AGRO-TOURISM CENTRE (AGRIFAC FARM STAY)



As a novel concept the faculty has set up agro-tourism facilities in the faculty farm with the aim of promoting agro-tourism and providing practical training to students specializing in agro-tourism. The centre is ready for commencing operations. The centre will attract nature loving local and foreign visitors. There are three cabana type cottages named 'Mountain View', 'Farm View' and 'Lake View'. Each cottage has one bedroom with an attached bathroom and a veranda, and can accommodate two guests. It will be operated as a profit oriented venture.

## SPECIAL LINKS WITH LOCAL & FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS TO DEVELOP GRADUATES

### Links with Durham University UK

SUSL has a bilateral understanding program with Durham University. Under the program there is academics and students exchange, empowering physical and human resources. Two lecturers of Sport Science and eight sport students from Durham University visited SUSL to help the two new degree programs.

Further, Sport Sciences program was conducted by two lecturers from UK on 14th and 15th, July 2009 to sports lecturers/instructors at Sri Lankan universities and other institutions. In the above program, 38 lecturers participated, and they were very happy about the program.



Sport Sciences Development activities were conducted by eight sports students from the UK to Sports & PE students at SUSL from 9th July to 14th August 2009. The former presented all their spot equipment, teaching aids and other learning materials after their activities.

Also they conducted a sport recreation workshop for kids at Galagama Sarvodaya Centre at Belihuloya, and sport programs for students of other institutions.



### LINKS WITH SRI LANKA MILITARY ACADEMY AT DIYATALAWA

As none of the universities in Sri Lanka offers Bachelors Degree in Sports and PE, there are no graduates to be recruited as lecturers to teach in the two new degree programs.

As a result, the SUSL decided to obtain the assistance of qualified instructors in sports from the Military Academy at Diyatalawa. Our request was accepted by the Academy, and from next week our students will go to Diyatalawa for two days a week.

### A NEW DEGREE PROGRAMME

With the national demand to introduce degree programs with high employability in Sri Lanka, the Vice Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University, Prof. Mahinda S. Rupasinghe, advised Sabaragamuwa University to design many such programs. The new program on "Sport Sciences and Management and Physical Education" launched in March 2009 at the Faculty of Applied Science, is one of them. This is the first and the only degree program in the history of university education in Sri Lanka for sport science, combining Sport Sciences, Mathematics, Biology, Management Science and Computer Science. These two new degree programs are being carried out under the Faculty of Applied Sciences; seventy two (72) students were recruited for the first batch, and the second, 80 for the 2008 academic year. It is expected that these students could be directly employed in majority of the industrial and Sports institutions.

### YOUNG SCIENTIST 2009

"American Geophysical Union Natural Hazards focus Group"

Research fellow at the Institute of Fundamental Studies (IFS) in Kandy, Dr. Meththika Vithanage, has been selected as the outstanding young scientist to receive the 2009 American Geophysical Union Natural Hazards Focus Group Award for Graduate Research. The award has been given for her original theoretical research and fieldwork on the interactions of the 2004 December Tsunami floodwaters with fresh groundwater-aquifers in the eastern coast of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Vithanage completed her Bachelor's Degree at the Department of Natural Resource and Management at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka in 2002.

### GEOMATICS

The new building for the faculty of Geomatics has been approved by the Government. An initial feasibility study for

a suitable site has been conducted, and the construction will commence soon.

The final year students of the faculty successfully defended their final research thesis work; it mainly addresses the application and conceptual problems related to Remote Sensing image analysis, Global Positioning Systems, Artificial Neural Network applications and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and their applications.

The new curriculum revision for the faculty is in progress, and several successful workshops have been conducted in this regard. It is intended to finalize the curriculum revision by the end of 2009.

The new intake of the faculty, comprising 53 students, will be on 9th November 2009. The Faculty of Geomatics celebrates its fifth anniversary on 23rd August 2009 with a *pirith* ceremony followed by a *sangika dana*.

### RANAVIRU UPAHARA

A two day programme including a street drama, *dharma deshana*, *pirith* chanting (by the students of Faculty of Management Studies), tree planting and ward rounding for blessing patients took place on January 11th and 12th 2009 at "Ranaviru Sewana". The event was organized by the final year students of the Department of Marketing Management under the supervision of Vilasini De Silva, Lecturer attached to the department. The university community gave a helping hand to make the event a very successful one. This is an extension of a CSR activity of the department.



In paying tribute to the heroes after the victory, a musical show was organized on 5th August 2009, and the university students along with the members of "Ranaviruwo Band" of "Ranaviru Sewana" performed at the show. The university "Sangeetha Sansadaya" organized the event with the coordination of Vilasini De Silva.

**DAY OF SMALL BUSINESSES – 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2009**

The second year students (2006/2007) of the Faculty of Management Studies organized “The Day of Small Businesses” on 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2009 as a continuous assessment of the subject, MS 222 – Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management. It was organized by the students under the supervision of the subject lecturer, Ms. K L B G Dharmaratne. The main objective of this program was to prepare the students to start and manage a small business in the competitive business environment with an exposure to the world of small businesses in Sri Lanka.

**PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR CUM TRAINING IN COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM, SHAHALAM, MALAYSIA, AUG 4 – 15, 2009**



Mr. MSM Aslam, Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of Tourism Management, participated in an International Seminar Cum Training on Community Based Tourism in Malaysia from August 4 to 15, 2009, and Mr. KMMI Ratnayake, Senior Lecturer of the department, invited as a resource person, presented a paper at the International Seminar. The event was jointly organized by Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC) and University Technology Mara (UiTM).



**DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM MANAGEMENT, JULY 27 – 29, 2009**

The Department of Tourism Management was able to review the Aims,

Learning Outcomes and Programme details, Students and Staff Facilities, Curriculum Contents, Design and Review, Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods, Quality of Students, Student Progress and Achievements, Academic Guidance and Counseling etc. The review was carried out by an expert panel, which included Dr. Dheheragoda, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Geography, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Mr. Ranjith Premerathne, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Mr. S. Andharawewa under the guidance of IRQUE project. After the three day review, the panel was able to provide many valuable and constructive criticisms, comments and suggestions for further development. The department, including the Head and the staff members, appreciated the panel and acknowledged their remarkable contribution.

**COMPLETION OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING**

A four-month Industrial Practical Training was successfully completed by the students of 2004/2005 batch of the Faculty of Management Studies. The batch consists of 274 students trained at 118 business organizations island-wide: Banking, Finance & Insurance, Hotel and Travel, Manufacturing, Plantation, Telecommunications sectors etc.

**INTER UNIVERSITY ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIP – 2009**

Inter - University sports championships have been organized since the latter part of 1950s. The first University Sports Festival was held in 1980 at the University of Peradeniya in response to a suggestion made by the Director of Physical Education of the University of Peradeniya, Mr. Lesley Handunge. Following this tradition, the Sri Lankan universities organize university games annually, and the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka organized ‘Inter University Road Race’ in 2009. It was held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009 morning in front of the University main gate.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the championship, while the University of Peradeniya became the runners-up and the University of Ruhuna, second runners-up. After having a very tense competition, Mr. A.M.S.K. Atapaththu was able to get the first place giving honours to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

**DURHAM-SABARAGAMUWA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

SUSL and Durham University have been successfully working to the community in Ihalagalagama and Puwakgahawela as development educational centres for pre-schooling.



In addition to improving English knowledge and Sports among members of the community under this MOU, Durham students served the schools of R/Karagastalawa and R/Landuyaya Colleges by improving English knowledge and providing techniques for sports to the primary school students.

The Durham students donated some sports equipment to the above schools during their visit from 08 July to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**STUDENTS AND STAFF WORK FOR COMMUNITY**



The staff and students of Sabaragamuwa University participated in one of the projects conducted under “Gama Neguma” for



constructing the road at Hospital road closed to the university. The Shramadana campaign was held for one week from 22 to 30 August 2009. The students, staff and the villagers worked together and the road was vested to the village community by Hon. Minister of Textiles and the MP of Ratnapura district Mahinda Rathnatilake and other guests on 20.09.2009.

**UNIVERSITY VILLAGE CONCEPT**

The Vice Chancellor of the SUSL is planning to support the community in the vicinity of the university under the government main manifesto, "Mahinda Chinthana". The main objective of the Diywara Gammana project closed to the university is to develop skills of the unemployed, providing them consultation in way of encouraging self-employment. The university senior staff is engaged to work on such areas as Agriculture, Livestock, Horticulture and Social Harmony.

**AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR THE FIRST YEARS STUDENTS**

An awareness programme for the first year students and parents was held for the first time at the University on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> at Ratnapura and Bandarawela. The second set of programmes was held at Colombo and Kurunegala, and the 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Matara. This programme comprised the Vice Chancellor, the Deans of the faculties and other respective representatives. It was a very beneficial and interesting programme for the students - as it highlighted the importance of degree programmes, disciplines, the university history and university life.



**PUBLICATIONS**

A book launch was held at the university on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for commemorating the world Indigenous day at the university premises. Two books were launched at this occasion: "World Indigenous People" and "Primitive Societies of Sri Lanka", edited by Prof. J.W.D. Somasudara and Prof. HMD Bandara. In addition, such international research papers

were published by the academics of the university.



**Meegama R.G.N. & Ranatunga S.P.K.** 2009 Vol. 1, No. 1, UML Based Framework for Human Resource Management. International Jurnal of Software Engineering & Computing. (pp 31-35)

**NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON "NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT 2009"**

First national symposium on Natural Resources Management was held at SUSL on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2009. The symposium carried a timely theme: "Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources for National Development", and was organized by the Department of Natural Resources, Faculty of Applied Sciences, SUSL.



The symposium marked a significant milestone in the history of the SUSL in its course to contribute towards national development. The Governor of the Sabaragamuwa Province Hon. Janaka Priyantha Bandara was the Chief Guest and the Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. M.A.R.D. Jayatilake was the Guest of Honour. The symposium was attended by many researchers and academics in the field of Natural Resources.

Ms. Ranmalee Bandara of SUSL and Mr. H.A.Y.R. Gunarathne of University of Peradeniya were awarded gold medals for

the best oral presentations and Ms. E.M.T.K. Senavirathne of SUSL was awarded a gold medal for the best poster presentation.

**NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON "TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE-2009"**

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Governor's office of the Sabaragamuwa Province, successfully conducted a three day symposium on "Traditional Knowledge" on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at the university premises.



The main objective of the symposium was to seek for means of conserving and updating the wealth of traditional knowledge transmitted from generation to generation so that the future generations will be able to manipulate it. In addition, the symposium focused on the means of increasing the confidence on traditional knowledge among the public to tackle the environmental issues, thereby leading to sustainable development.

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