



Newsletter

Volume 3 - June 2010

SUSL

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செய்தி மடல்

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

ISSN -2012-5844

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General Convocation 2009

GENERAL CONVOCATION 2009

The 11th General Convocation of the University was held on 26th December 2009 at BMICH, Colombo. The Chief Guest of the Convocation was Prof. A.V. Suraweera, Chairman of the National Education Commission. The Guest of Honer was Prof. Manfred Domroes. Prof. Domroes and Prof. C.B. Dissanayake were awarded Doctor of Sciences at the Convocation.

The Student of the Year was Ms. J.W.A. Sajeewani, Faculty of Applied Sciences. 17 Gold medals were awarded to the outstanding students under different disciplines.



THE VESAK PROGRAMME



The Vesak Programme of the University was held from 24th to 25th May 2010. The *Banadesana* and *Daana Pinkama* were successfully organized by the students and the staff of the University. The *Maha Sanga Anushasana* was delivered by the Nayaka Theros in the region in appreciation of the development of the university.

The Durham University and the Sabaragamuwa University organized several programmes for the university students and the community during the past three years. One of the most important community services rendered by Durham University in collaboration with Sarvodaya organization was the laying of the foundation stone for the new Community Educational Centre at Pambahinna by Prof. J.A. Palmer Cooper and Prof. David Cooper on 10th of July, 2010.

FACULTY STUDENT COUNSELING CENTRE



The opening of the Student Counseling Centre of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages was held on 23rd February 2010 in the new faculty building of Social Sciences and Languages. The first speech on counseling was delivered by Prof.

Ranawaka. The Vice Chancellor, Deans of the Faculties, Heads of the Departments, the staff and students were present at this event.

RETIREMENT OF MR. GAMINI FERNANDO, DEPUTY BURSAR



Mr. Gamini Fernando joined the University service in 1974 and he was appointed as the Deputy Bursar of the Sabaragamuwa

University of Sri Lanka in 2002. Since then, he, while performing his duties in his substantial post, performed as the Acting Bursar of the University up to July 2007. Thereafter, he was appointed as the consultant in financial administration on assignment basis. He, during his tenure, contributed a lot to the university on its financial administration. The most significant one, among his contributions, was his untiring effort made towards obtaining an audit opinion for the financial activities of the University from 2007 onwards.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND DURHAM PROJECT



AGRIFLORA 2010 EXHIBITION

AgriFlora exhibition, which has been the major practical component of the course *Commercial Floriculture*, was held from 16th to 18th March 2010 in parallel with the “Art Festival 2010” at the university. This is an annual event of the third year Agriculture students majoring in Horticulture, and this year it was held for the tenth time with more than 75 exhibits including fresh flower arrangements, low cost dry flower arrangements and indoor garden designs under the supervision and guidance of Dr. G. D. Kapila Kumara (Course Coordinator) and Ms. Madumani Amararathne. It should be appreciated that rest of the students of the faculty also worked together hand in hand, adding colours to the event and making it ‘the center of attraction’ at the Art Festival.



This has been a forum for the students for years to blend their artistic skills with the scientific knowledge and to share it with the university community, school children and general public. Most of the exhibits were innovative as well as outstanding and were appreciated profusely by visitors.

“SURVEYOR NIGHT” – GET TOGETHER OF THE ALUMNI OF THE FACULTY OF GEOMATICS

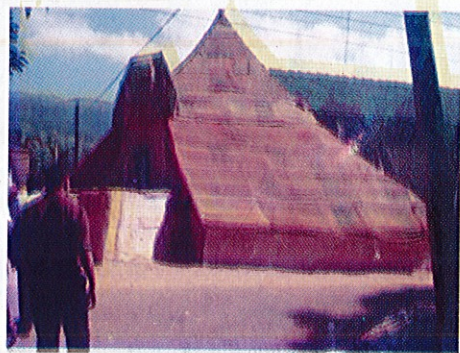


The second consecutive Get-together of the Alumni of the Faculty of Geomatics which was organized by the Students Council of the Faculty was successfully held on 27th February 2010 at the University premises. “Surveyor Night” was a very colorful event and the staff, graduated students and the undergraduate students of the Faculty of



Geomatics were gathered. The retired staff of the Faculty was also invited and the great service they provided for the faculty was honored on the occasion. Many entertaining events were also organized on this y.

“PIRIHIMBINI DIYAWARA” ART EXHIBITION



The eighth annual art exhibition organized by the Literary Sub Committee of the Students Council of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was held from 16th to 18th March 2010 at the Sabaragamuwa University. This is the biggest event organized by students within a year. The Egyptian history and the evolution of the great pyramids were represented by the Faculty of Geomatics.



GEO PEDURA

Apart from the academic performances there are students who are keen in many extracurricular activities. To uplift the

aesthetic, especially singing, talents of the Faculty students, the “Geo Pedura” is



organized as an annual event. This year’s musical extravaganza was held on 08th September 2010 at the University Auditorium.

BOOK DONATION



It was six years since the Department of Surveying Sciences had become the Faculty of Geomatics. This was celebrated by organizing a donation of books and school uniform to 90 students of Muththettuwagama Maha Vidyalaya. This event was organized by the Welfare Society of the Faculty of Geomatics together with the Faculty staff. It was successfully held at the Muththettuwagama school premises with the participation of all the students, staff and the Dean of the Faculty of Geomatics

“BROTHERHOOD CHALLENGE SHIELD” SPORTS COMPETITION

The “Brotherhood Challenge Shield” organized by Students Council of the Faculty of Geomatics took place this year also. Geomatics Premier League (GPL) cricket tournament was held on 20th February 2010 while the Badminton tournament was held on 07th July, 2010. All the events were successful with the active participation of both students and staff of the Faculty of Geomatics.

SCHOOL AWARENESS PROGRAMME



To make the Faculty of Geomatics more popular throughout the country, a series of awareness programmes are planned out. The second School Awareness Program was conducted on 10th September 2010 at Rahula College, Matara. The Advanced Level students of the schools in Matara district were invited. About 400 Mathematics stream students from Sujatha Girls' School, St. Thomas Boys' School, Matara MMV and Rahula College participated in the event.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS / FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Senarathne, S.H.S., Dissanayake, D.N.M. and Arachchi, L.P.V. (2010) Allelopathic potential of *Brachiaria brizantha* and *B. milliformis* on seed germination of selected bioassay species. *Pakistan Journal of weed Science Research* 16(2):207-216.

Gunartne, A., Kong X. & Corke, H. (2010) Functional properties and retrogradation of heat-moisture treated wheat, potato starches in the presence of hydroxypropyl α -cyclodextrin. *Starch/Stärke* 62 (2) 69-77.

Walpita, C.N., Alexander, D., Crawford & Veerle, M. D. (2010) Combined antisense knockdown of type 1 and type 2 iodothyronine deiodinases disrupts embryonic development in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*). *General and comparative Endocrinology*. 166(1) 134-141.

Dissanayake, P.K., Shigenori, Y., Masayoshi S. & Naoki, Y. (2010) Postharvest Chlorophyll Degradation in Japanese Bunching Onion (*Allium fistulosum* L.). *Fresh produce*. 4 (1). 123-127. (Invited Review)

THE MOST OUTSTANDING RESEARCH ARTICLE FROM A STAFF MEMBER OF THE SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Gunartne, A., Hoover, R. (2002) Effect of heat-moisture treatment on the structure and physicochemical properties of tuber and root starch. *Carbohydrate Polymers*. (49) 425-437.

This article has been cited in more than 100 international research articles all over the world according to the Scopus, a database of abstracts and citations for scholarly journal articles, as at December 2010.

INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION ON RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES BY STAFF MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

International presentations

Rosairo, H.S.R., Lyne, M., Martín, S.K. & Moore, K. (2010) Institutional factors affecting the performance of farmer companies in Sri Lanka. Contributed paper presented at the International Society of Horticultural Science Symposium 'Third International Symposium on Improving the Performance of Supply Chains in Traditional Economies', 4-8 July, Kuala Lumpur.

Collaborative research has been completed in three destinations: Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand devastated by Indian Ocean tsunami. Toyota Foundation research grant facilitated the work and other supportive roles were played by Hiroshima University, Japan; Kessart University, Thailand and South East Asian Fisheries Development Center, Thailand. Dr. D.A.M. De Silva, Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences joined this research work as country coordinator and principal research investigator in 2010.

Dr. P.M. Asha Karunaratne, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Export Agriculture, continues her consultancy since October 2008 to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Crop Modelling Programme, AquaCrop network: <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/AquaCropNetwork.pdf> through various activities. During October 8-16, the first international forum on "Improving farm management strategies through AquaCrop - worldwide collection of case studies" was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Dr. Asha Karunaratne coordinated this international scientific forum as the representative member of FAO AquaCrop team being the

chief editor for papers submitted from all over the world.

OTHER WORKSHOPS



Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences conducted workshops on mushroom cultivation,



beekeeping and plant nursery management for the villagers in Diyawara Gammana to develop their skills and to encourage self-employment under the university village concept. Two workshops were conducted by Dr AD Ampityawatta and Dr PK Disanayake, Senior Lecturers of the Department on 18th January 2010 and 23rd March 2010 at the Faculty farm.



Department of Export Agriculture offered a two-day training for the agriculture teachers of Balangoda education zone on 09th and 10th June 2010 on soil testing, pest control, vegetative propagation techniques and hydroponics techniques to enhance their practical ability. Dr AAY Amarasinghe, Dr Lal P Vidha Arachchi, Dr MLMC Disanayake Dr GDK Kumara and Ms DIM Amararathna participated as resource persons in this training program and Dr AD Ampityawatta coordinated the programme.

WELCOME TO AGRIFAC FARM STAY



Agrifac Farm Stay is a perfect stopover on the Colombo-Badulla highway and a charming and peaceful holiday destination for much needed "getaway from it all" restful break. An unforgettable, warm and friendly farm style bed & breakfast experience awaits you in this romantic and pleasant atmosphere. Agrifac Farm Stay was opened on 2nd February 2010 and commenced its operations on 11th March 2010. There are three Cabana type cottages named as "Mountain View" (Giriwasa), "Farm View" (Keth Wasa) and Lake View (Vil Wasa).

TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR G.C.E. (O/L) STUDENTS OF BALANGODA SCHOOLS



The Department of Livestock Production conducted several training programmes for G.C.E.(O/L) students of many schools in Balangoda educational zone on livestock industry, animal husbandry, milk and meat processing and animal feed formulation. The participants were highly satisfied with the programmes as there are no facilities available for them to acquire knowledge and skills of this nature at the school.

PRO-FOOD / PRO-PACK INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION 2010 AT BMICH

It is an annual event of the Department of Food Science & Technology. Dissemination of knowledge of their new innovation in Food Science is done by the undergraduate students through their mini projects and final year research projects.

A few of the exhibits were Cassava Base Cake (60% cassava flour), Seeni Kekiri Fruit



Drink, Tamarind Tablet and Cowpea French Fries

The Evaluation Committee and audience highly appreciated their findings.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR A/L CANDIDATES ON FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SUSL



The Department of Food Science & Technology conducted an awareness programme at Dharmasoka College Auditorium, Ambalangoda, for the A/L science students on the current trends and opportunities in the field of Food Science & Technology in the present job market. A detailed description of the Degree Programme conducted at the Department of Food Science & Technology was also delivered.

NR NIGHT 2010 - 14 MAY 2010



NR Night is an annual event of the Society for Natural Resources, an event that integrates staff-student cohesion and entertainment.

INVOLVEMENT WITH A NATIONAL ISSUE

Project Title: Development of management strategies for Weligama coconut leaf wilt disease

Grant Provided by: Plantation Ministry via Council for Agricultural Research Policy

Funded amount: Rs. 6,109,391.00 (approximately 61 Lakhs)

Duration: Three years (03) effective from 1st March, 2010

Chief Investigator: Dr. Lal P Vidhana Arachchi

Collaborative Scientists: Dr. A.A.Y. Amarasinghe, Dr. D.M.A. Gunaratne and Mr. S Malavipirana

This is a serious disease in the world and widely spread in the coconut plantations in Sri Lanka, especially in Weligama region. Numerous scientists have identified the cause agent for the disease as phytoplasma. It is well known that the control measures for phytoplasma are not yet found and are extremely difficult. So far there is no information on managing the disease. Development of management strategies to promote disease withstanding power of coconut palms and suppress the phytoplasma activity is essential and important to alleviate the problem. Such strategies will be developed by scientists of SUSL. Presently, some positive results for managing the matter have already been observed and further studies for the confirmation of important results are in progress.

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