



# Newsletter

Volume 4 - December 2010

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Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Web: www.sab.ac.lk Email: newsletter@sab.ac.lk Tel:+94-452280014 Fax: +94-452280015

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Construction of the Faculty Building of Social Sciences and Languages

distinguished guests also participated. 10 books were launched at this event. *Problems and Prospects of Economic Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* edited by Prof. M. Sunil Shantha, Prof. Herath Madana Bandara and Prof. H.M.S. Priyanath, was among them.

### STUDENTS AWARENESS PROGRAMME 2010



The second annual awareness programme for the first years was held in regional level to draw attention to the successful university life. Ratnapura St. Allosious, Colombo Thustan, Bandarawela Central, Kurunegala Sir John Kothalawala and Matara Rahula Colleges were the centres for this event. The Vice Chancellor, Deans of the Faculties and other senior academics, parents and students participated in the programme.

### THE VISIT OF HON. MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

day. He had several meetings with students and staff. Laying of the foundation stones for the boys' hostel, for the playground and for the new building complex of the Faculty of Geomatics also took place. In addition, students' canteen and staff quarters were opened to the university community.

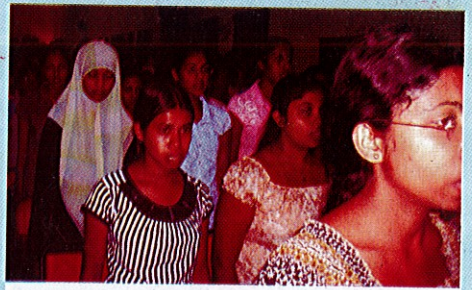


### 40 YEARS OF ACADEMIC SERVICE OF PROF. J.W.D. SOMASUNDARA



A Felicitation Ceremony, together with a Book Launching, was held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. 40 years of excellent university service of Prof. J.W.D. Somasundara was honoured on this occasion. The Chancellor of the University, Ven. Prof. Kumburugamuwe Vajira Nayaka Thero presided over the occasion. The Governor of the Sabaragamuwa Province, Hon. W.J.M. Lokubandara and other

### NEW INTAKE 2009/2010



The ceremonial inauguration of the Orientation Programme for the new intake was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the Auditorium. 915 students registered for the five faculties. The programme was successfully conducted and it was ended up on December 10 with a fantastic Cultural Show displayed by the new students at the Auditorium

Hon. S.B. Dissanayake, Minister of Higher Education and the Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education, Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawarathna visited the University on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Hon. Minister observed the facilities and other infrastructure developments of the university on the same





**PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH**



Senior Professor Mahinda S. Rupasinghe, Department of Natural Resources; Prof. K.B. Palipane, Department of Food Science and Technology; Dr. Tilak Hewawasam, Department of Natural Resources; Dr. Lal P. Vidhana Arachchi, Department of Export Agriculture and Dr. T. S. P. Jayaweera, Department of Livestock Production have been honoured with Presidential Awards for Research by His Excellency, the President Mahinda Rajapaksha at a ceremony held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at Temple Trees. These awards are given in recognition of authors pursuing research work for their publications which have effectively appeared in the Science Criterion Index of 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. The recipients are selected by the National Research Council in Sri Lanka.

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES PUBLICIZED ITS NEW CURRICULUM**



The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka revised its curriculum to match the country's demands and aspirations and to prepare the students to survive and prosper in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. After studying and analyzing the current graduate profile and the job market in the agriculture and allied fields, it was felt that the former curriculum of the Faculty needed revision to address the demand of the current job market. The revision process was made much easier with the implementation of the project of Improving Relevance and Quality of Undergraduate Education (IRQUE) funded by the World Bank. It led to a new degree structure with

the degree of B.Sc. (Agricultural Sciences and Management). Our recent change of the name of the degree makes a smooth pathway to build up our strengths and directs students to achieve their goals as we move forward.

The Faculty publicized this timely important curriculum at a giant ceremony themed "Towards Excellence in Agricultural Education and Research in the New Era" with renowned people at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka on 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2010. Hon. Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Nandimithra Ekanayake was the Chief Guest for the ceremony.

**WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED**

Farmer training programme organized by the Department of Export Agriculture as requested by the Chairman of *Dimuthu Welfare Society*, A.M Harshapala Banda, was held at R/Bulathgama Vidyalaya, Balangoda on 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2010. Dr.Chandrika Dissanayake conducted the programme on rice pests and their management to educate the regional farmers about correct identification of pest damage and to find best control methods. Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. A.A.Y Amerasinghe, Head / Department of Export Agriculture, Dr. A.D Ampitiyawatta and Divisional Agricultural Development Officer Mr. Wathukarawatha participated as invited guests.

The Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, conducted a two-day workshop for Agricultural research and production assistants of the Balangoda region from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2010. These days were devoted for seminars and practical sessions regarding all aspects of rice cultivation introducing new technological innovations. The training programme was organized and coordinated by Dr. M.L.M. Chandrika Disanayake; Dr. Lal P. Vidhana Arachchi, Dr. P.M.A.S. Karunarathne, Dr. M.L.M. Chandrika Dissanayake, Dr. A.D. Ampitiyawatta and Ms. D.I.M. Amararathna



participated as resource persons. The Vice Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University, Prof.Mahinda S Rupasinghe; Dean/ Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Dr.A.A.Y Amerasinghe; Divisional Agricultural Development Officer, Mr. Wathukarawatha and Mr. D.T.K.S. Bopitiya participated as invited guests.

On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010 the Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences conducted a one-day workshop on Beekeeping for farmers in Puwakgahawela and Diyawara Gammana at their request. Prof. Mahinda S Rupasinghe and Prof. M Sunil Shantha also participated. The workshop was organized and conducted by Dr. Kapila Dissanayake, Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.

**WORKSHOP ON NEW-VENTURE CREATION**

A four-day workshop on new-venture creation was held at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka from 06<sup>th</sup> to 09<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Dinah Bennett and Wendy Parvin of Durham University facilitated this workshop attended by a group of academics representing all the faculties of the Sabaragamuwa University. This signifies the commencement of a series of events leading to designing of a postgraduate certificate and a diploma in entrepreneurship to be launched as external programmes. This whole process is financially and institutionally facilitated by the British Council, Colombo under the programme "developing entrepreneurship through collaborative programme delivery". The two courses will be developed for launching in May 2011.

**DECENTRALIZED CAPITAL BUDGET PROGRAMME IN 2010**

The Department of English Language Teaching, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka conducted a four-day workshop from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 on 'Enhancing Primary and Secondary School English Education in Ratnapura District' at the Regional English Support Center (RESC) Ehelijayagoda in collaboration with the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council under the Decentralized Capital Budget Programme – 2010. Prof. Rajiva Wijesinghe, Member of Parliament, Prof. Mahinda S. Rupasinghe, the Vice Chancellor of the Sabaragamuwa University, and Mr. P. Kodithuwakku, Chief Secretary, Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council were among the participants at the inaugural session.





**10<sup>th</sup> SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY GAMES - 2010**

Sri Lanka University Games are held every three years and it is a much awaited event in an on career of an undergraduate where many have the opportunity to take part only once. Even though the SLUG started with very few universities, now it has expanded to include all the universities except the Open Uuniversity. The main purpose of the SLUG is to provide immense qualities like sportsmanship, bearing of victory and defeat, harmony, etc to the undergraduates who can realize their true potential studying together and thereafter working together as professionals in Sri Lanka.



This year the 10<sup>th</sup> Sri Lankan University Games were hosted by the Sri Jayewardanepura University and it ended grandly at Sri Jayewardanepura grounds on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 10<sup>th</sup> month. All the universities took on each other in 22 disciplines giving the Sabaragamuwa University many victories:

1. The overall athletic championship
2. The women's athletic championship
3. Men's karate (individual Kumite under 65.0 kg) championship
4. Men's karate (individual Kata.under 65.0 kg), 1<sup>st</sup> runners up
5. Women's hockey, 1<sup>st</sup> runners up
6. Men's Elle, 1<sup>st</sup> runners up
7. Men's swimming, overall 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up
8. Netball, 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up
9. Women's karate (individual Kumite under 53.0 kg), 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up
10. Women's karate (individual Kumite under 60.0 kg), 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up

**Track and Field, Men's**

1. 200 m - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, H.H.S.S. Gunawardena
3. Javelin throw - 1<sup>st</sup> place, L.H.M.P. De Silva

**Track and Field, Women's**

1. 100 m- 1<sup>st</sup> place, D.D. Priyadarshani
2. 100m hurdle - 2<sup>nd</sup> place, R.T.K.K. Wijerathna
3. 200 m - 1<sup>st</sup> place, D.D. Priyadarshani  
3<sup>rd</sup> place, D.A. Jayakody
4. 400 m - 2<sup>nd</sup> place, D.A. Jayakody
5. 1500 m - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, H.S.M. Zoysa
6. 3000 m - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, H.S.M. Zoysa
7. 100x4 - 1<sup>st</sup> place, (equal meet record)
8. 400x4 - 2<sup>nd</sup> place
9. Long Jump - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, D.D. Priyadarshani
10. High Jump - 2<sup>nd</sup> place, W.A.W.S. Rupasinghe
11. Discuss Throw - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, H.A.S.A. Appuhamy
12. Shot Putt - 2<sup>nd</sup> place, H.A.S.A. Appuhamy  
3<sup>rd</sup> place, M.W.C. Kurukulasooriya

One of the shining occasions in the SLUG was the glimmering performances in the 100 x4 women's relay team which equaled the previous university games record.

Not only the athletic team but also the Hockey team put forward a brilliant show where they reached the finals but lost in a nail biting finish.



**STAFF DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

Staff Development Centre of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka conducts many workshops for the academic and non-academic staff of the University to improve individual staff skills and knowledge which increase the job satisfaction and performance. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010, Ms. Angela M Rae from the University of Durham conducted a one-day workshop for the senior academic staff on "Creative Management and Decision Making for Learning and Teaching". Further, on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010, she conducted a two-day workshop for the junior staff of the Sabaragamuwa University on "Innovative

Teaching Methods". Both of these programmes were ended with an immense success. In addition, there were many other programmes for the betterment of the university staff:



- One-day workshop on "Performing Stories Orally: Yesterday and Today" for the staff & some selected students, by Jane Taylor from Durham University
- Three-day workshop on "Application of Sports Sciences" for the Sports Unit staff and students with Durham University Group
- Half a day workshop on "New Avenues in the Tertiary Education in Sri Lanka" for the school teachers of Balangoda area, by the University Staff
- One-day workshop on "Internal Quality Assurance in Universities" for the academic staff, by Prof. Colin Peiris
- A special English programme for the non-academic staff with Durham University Group
- Lecture on "Natural Resources Exploitation and Environment" for the staff and students, by Prof. Lucky Amarathunga
- Half a day workshop on "Responsibilities of the University Staff on 'Public Funds'" for the administrative staff, by Auditor General
- Half a day workshop on "Writing Skills & Financial Matters" for the non-academic staff, by Prof. Mahinda S Rupasinghe, Mr. Chandana Dissanyake & Mr. Kumara Rathnayake

**SABARAGAMUWA PERFORMANCES ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

We are glad to say that two university students got a chance to participate in world university games in 2010.

They took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian University Table Tennis Tournament in Honkon China and 11<sup>th</sup> World University Chess Championship in Zurich, Switzerland

Mr. M. B. Walisundara who represented the Sri Lanka University Table Tennis team, was



educated at Kingswood College Kandy. And now, he is an undergraduate in Sambaragamuwa University following Sport Sciences and Management, a four-year special degree programme, as a second year student.



Mr. Walisundara was selected one of the best four players out of twenty two university Table Tennis players at the selection tournament to represent Sri Lanka.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Table Tennis Tournament, they played for Doubles and Mixed doubles and were selected to quarter finalist round.

The Sri Lanka University Combination Team was able to win the 6<sup>th</sup> place out of fourteen university teams.

Ms.A. K.Rajakaksha represented the World University Chess Championship in 2010. She was very talented in chess and a national level championship holder. She was schooled in Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy.



She showed her best performances at the selection tournament for world championship. There Ms. Rajapaksha was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Sri Lanka girls category.

Ms. Rajapaksha was able to increase her performances by increasing her rating at international level as well as national level.

Now she is an undergraduate in Sambaragamuwa University, following a special four-year degree programme in Physical Education, as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student.

**OPENING OF THE GREEN PARK (Centre for Biodiversity and Environmental Studies)**

The Centre for Biodiversity and Environmental Studies was declared open by Hon. S. B. Dissanayake the Minister of Higher Education on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010.



**GUEST LECTURE AT GREEN PARK - 25 AUGUST 2010**

A guest lecture was delivered on 'Modern Techniques of Biodiversity Conservation' by Dr. Sershen Naidoo, from the University of KwaZulu – Natal, South Africa, to the students of Faculty of Applied Sciences.

**SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE OPENTABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP -2010**

The present undergraduates of the division of Sports Sciences and Management and Physical Education of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka organized a Table Tennis Tournament titling "Sabaragamuwa Province Open Table Tennis Championship-2010" in collaboration with the provincial Table Tennis Association of Sabaragamuwa for the first time.

It was held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2010. The Chief Guest, Hon. C.B. Rathnayaka, Minister of Sports gave away the trophies for the most outstanding players (women and men) of the "Sabaragamuwa Province Open Table Tennis Championship -2010". The Director of sports in the Ministry of Sports, Mr. P. Satharasinghe; Secretary of the Table Tennis Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Chandana Perera and Treasurer of the Table Tennis Association, Mr. Saman Sri Rathnayake were also present.

The tournament was carried out under seven age group categories (8, 10, 12,15,18,21, and open) and happy to say that nine schools and a sports club participated in this tournament. St.Joseph's Balika M.V., Kegalle; Sussex college, Kegalle; Sivali Central College, Rathnapura; Kegalle Girls' College; Dudly Senanayake Central College, Tholangamuwa; Prince College, Rathnapura; Sirisaman National College; Kegalle Vidyalaya; Fitness for Life Sports

Academy and players of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka were the participants.

The most outstanding players of the tournament were Mr. Nithin Nimanthara of Dudley Senanayaka College, Tholangamuwa and Ms. Prasadi Rajapakse of St.Joseph's Balika M.V., Kegalle.

The guidance and the motivation of the Vice Chancellor, the Registrar, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Co-ordinator of the division of Sport Sciences and Management and Physical Education, lecturers, T.T coach of the university and the staff became a great support behind all the progress.

**CONSULTANCY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

On the request of the Ratnapura district secretariat, Prof. M. Sur<sup>u</sup> Shantha, Prof. H.M.S. Priyanath and the team of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka prepared an Integrated Development Plan for Ratnapura District 2010-2019. The plan focuses on the rapid economic contribution in Ratnapura for the next ten years. The report was submitted to His Excellency, the President on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 at Ratnapura progress review meeting of the Sabaragamuwa Province. In addition to that Hon. Minister of Economic Development Mr. Basil Rajapaksha reviewed the progresses of the district development and approved Rs. 5.6 million for the construction of a cattle breeding centre at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka for an increase of fresh milk production in the Ratnapura District.

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 Prof. M. Sunil Shantha  
 Mr. P.D.C. Silva

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**Graphic and Designing**

Mr. R.A.A.J. Ranasinghe