



PGIS News

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Quarterly Update of Activities and Progress of Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka



HIGHLIGHTS

▶ INAUGURATION OF PROGRAMMES

▶ COMPLETING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

▶ WORKSHOPS

▶ DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS

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CELEBRATIONS

PGIS Completes 20 Years of Service



PGIS commemorated its 20th anniversary this year. A 'Pirith' ceremony was held on 4th March 2016 to mark the event.

PGIS Celebrates New Year



A tea party was organized by the PGIS on 4th January 2016, to celebrate the New Year: members of the Board of Management, academic and non-academic staff and students of the PGIS were present.

Guest Lecture on ‘Lighting in Transition – An Overview’

IEEE Power and Energy Society (IEEE-PES) Sri Lankan Chapter in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) organized a guest lecture on “Lighting in Transition - An Overview” on 2nd February 2016 at PGIS Auditorium. The speaker was Prof. Nadarajah Narendran, Director of Lighting Research Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York, U.S.A. The talk was followed by a reception at the PGIS Roof Top hall, hosted by Hayleys Lighting.



Guest Lecture on ‘Creating a Culture of Innovation: The Challenges in Becoming a World-Class University’

Prof. William G. Tierney (Wilbur-Kieffer Professor of Higher Education and Co-Director, Pullias Center for Higher Education, University of Southern California, USA) delivered the guest lecture at the PGIS auditorium on 25th April 2016.

Seminar on ‘Application of Inductively Coupled Plasma - Mass Spectrometry/Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-MS/ICP-OES) for Your Research’



Mr. Chandrakant Pawar, Application Specialist, Thermo Fisher Scientific India (Pvt) Ltd., Mumbai, made a presentation at the PGIS auditorium on 29th March 2016. This was organized in collaboration with the International Research Center (InRC), University of Peradeniya, National Research Council (NRC) and the Analytical Instruments (Pvt.) Ltd. The seminar was attended by academic staff and postgraduate students including YRF members. NRC facilitated the purchase of the ICP-MS instrument installed in the Department of Geology, University of Peradeniya.

INAUGURATION OF M.Sc. PROGRAMMES

Inauguration of Fifteen M.Sc. Programmes

Nine M.Sc. programmes were inaugurated on 13th May 2016 with the participation of Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya as the Chief Guest. Six more M.Sc. programmes and one post-graduate diploma programme were inaugurated on 16th May 2016. Details of the 16 programmes are given below.

M.Sc. Programmes Inaugurated on 13th May 2016

M.Sc. Programme	Board of Study (Chairperson)	Coordinator(s)
Analytical Chemistry	Chemical Sciences (Prof. B M R Bandara)	Prof. M M A N Navaratne Dr. K Jayasundara
Industrial Chemistry		Dr. C S Kalpage Dr. S Jayasinghe
Nanoscience & Nanotechnology		Prof. R M G Rajapakse Dr. R G S C Rajapakse Dr. A C A Jayasundera
Clinical Biochemistry	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (Prof. J G S Ranasinghe)	Prof. R Sivakanesan Dr. H K I Perera
Computer Science	Statistics and Computer Science (Prof. P Wijekoon)	Prof. A A I Perera Dr. Ruwan Nawaratne
Environmental Science	Environmental Science (Prof. Namal Priyantha)	Dr. G W A R Fernando
Industrial Mathematics	Mathematics (Dr. A A S Perera)	Dr. M I M Ishak
Medical Microbiology	Plant Sciences (Dr. G A D Perera)	Dr. S Athukorala Dr. F Noordeen
Pharmaceutical Botany		Dr. G A D Perera Dr. J W Damunupola

Awardees of M.Sc. Merit Scholarships



Seven M.Sc. students with a high GPA were awarded certificates of merit at a ceremony held on 13th May 2016.

Awardees:

M.Sc. in Computer Science -
2011/12:

Mr. H M R B Herath
Mr. S Garigaraganapathy

M.Sc. in Computer Science -
2013/14:

Ms. M S Samarakoon
Mr. S D D N Sirimewan

M.Sc. in Computer Science -
2014/15:

Mr. R Vijayakumar
Ms. L Navanesan
Ms. T Kartheeswaran

INAUGURATION OF M.Sc. PROGRAMMES



The Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya (left) and the Director, PGIS (middle) addressed the audience at the inauguration ceremony held at the PGIS auditorium on 13th May 2016.

M.Sc. Programmes Inaugurated on 16th May 2016

M.Sc. Programme	Board of Study (Chairperson)	Coordinator(s)
Disaster Management	Earth Sciences (Dr. Jagath Gunatilaka)	Prof. B S B Karunaratne Dr. S Malaviarachchi
Eng Geology & Hydrogeology		Dr. Jagath Gunatilaka Dr. H A Dharmagunawardhane
GIS and Remote Sensing		Dr. Jagath Gunatilaka
Medical Physics	Physics (Dr. LRAK Bandara)	Dr. C P Jayalath Mr. A Dilip Kumara
Physics of Materials		Dr. L R A K Bandara
Science Education	Science Education (Dr. Sumedha Madawala)	Dr. W D Chandrasena Dr. W A P P de Silva Dr. C V Hettiarachchi Dr. J A Weliwita Dr. J P Liyanage
PG Diploma in Science Education		Dr. A R G A M Abeykoon Menike

YOUNG RESEARCHERS' FORUM

PGIS-Young Researchers' Forum (YRF)

YRF Padura

This event was organized to provide an opportunity for M.Sc. students of the PGIS to interact with Young Researchers' Forum. It was held at the PGIS Roof Top-hall on 19th March 2016. The students sang and listened to classical songs while having a drink of 'Belimal' with jaggery.



Young Researchers' Forum

President:

Mr. Mudassar Marso
M.Phil. candidate
(Chemical Sciences)

Secretary:

Ms. Menaka Ariyaratne
Ph.D. candidate
(Plant Sciences)

Contact details:

E-mail - yrfpgis@gmail.com

Website - <http://www.pgis.lk/yrf>

Awareness Programme on Erasmus Mundus Scholarships

An awareness programme on ERASMUS scholarships was held at the PGIS for YRF members by Mr. S. Lamourette, the ERASMUS Coordinator from France on 16th February 2016. This event was coordinated by the Deputy Registrar, PGIS. Further discussions on future developments are being followed.



YRF Colloquium Series

This year the YRF colloquium series began with a lecture titled "Refining your inner scientist" delivered by Dr. Madava Meegaskumbura, Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Peradeniya on 24th February 2016. This event was attended by both undergraduate and postgraduate young researchers.

The 2nd lecture in the series was delivered by Dr. Sunil Dehipawala of City University of New York, USA on "Structural study of iron nano particles photo-deposited in glass" on 27th April 2016.



Short Courses and Advanced Short Courses on ‘GIS and Applications’

Five short-term programmes (67th, 68th and 69th short courses and 20th and 21st advanced short courses) in the series on GIS and Applications were conducted at the PGIS by the Board of Study in Earth Sciences from January to June 2016. The programmes were coordinated by Dr. Jagath Gunatilake.

Programme	Dates	No. of Participants	Participants
67 th Short Course	Jan 4 - 9	16	Officers from Landuse Policy Planning Dept.
68 th Short Course	Feb 8 - 13	30	Officers from Landuse Policy Planning Dept.
69 th Short Course	May 9 - 14	20	Officers from Landuse Policy Planning Dept.
20 th Advanced Short Course	Jan 25 - 30	12	Archeologists
21 st Advanced Short Course	June 6 - 11	16	SL Navy Officers

Short Course on ‘Calibration in Analytical Measurements’

The above short course was organized by the International Research Centre (InRC) and PGIS in collaboration with the Ottawa Chapter of the Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya. The resource person was Prof. Nimal De Silva from the Department of Earth Science, University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The course was held at the PGIS Auditorium on 29th February 2016 with the participation of many undergraduate students from the Faculty of Science and postgraduate students from the PGIS.



Workshop on ‘Enhancing the Quality of Postgraduate Programmes’ for Coordinators of MSc Programmes

A workshop on ‘Enhancing the Quality of Postgraduate Programmes’ was conducted on 7th March 2016 for twenty eight participants comprising M.Sc. Programme Coordinators and Chairpersons of Boards of Study of the PGIS. Prof. H M D Namal Priyantha, Director of the PGIS discussed issues pertaining to conduct of the M.Sc. Programmes.

Workshop on ‘Higher Degree Research Training – connecting the dots (perils and pitfalls)’



A workshop on ‘Higher Degree Research Training: connecting the dots (perils and pitfalls)’ held at the PGIS on 16th March 2016. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the International Research Centre (InRC), University of Peradeniya. The resource person was Dr. Tony Sahama from the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia. The workshop focused on Higher Degree Research Training and its importance to succeed in balancing life-critical scenarios.

Workshops on Scientific Writing for PGIS students

PGIS conducts regular workshops on 'Scientific Writing' for Ph.D., M.Phil. and M.Sc. students registered at the PGIS, in order to improve their writing skills. The second and third workshops in the series were held at the PGIS auditorium during February 13 - 14 and April 2 - 3, 2016 for 82 and 70 PGIS students, respectively. The objective of the workshop was to help students to produce a quality Project Report/Thesis and publications.



Each workshop comprised lecture/discussion sessions on different aspects of postgraduate thesis/project report writing. The topics covered at the workshop were: Structure and layout of a thesis/project report; Ethics in Scientific Writing; Title and Abstract; Computer-Aided Literature Survey; Introduction and Bibliography; Experimental/Materials and Methods; Results, Discussion and Conclusions. Dr. N C Bandara and Mr. A Liyandeniya coordinated the workshops.

Workshop on 'Quality of life from quality of information – what are the odds?'

Dr. Tony Sahama from the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia was the resource person for the workshop on 'Quality of Life from Quality of Information: what are the odds?' held at the PGIS on 17th March 2017. Dr. Sahama discussed how technological maturity and interactions of technologies with human factors aid in improving the quality of life.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree Awardees (January - June 2016)

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

W B W M R Y C Aluwihare

Chemical Sciences

K A N P Katuwavila

Earth Sciences

T H N G Amaraweera

Mathematics

T Mathanaranjan

Physics

H N M Sarangika

Plant Sciences

T Thileepan

Statistics and Computer Science

S N Gunasekara

Zoological Sciences

K B Ranawana

PGIS News

Editorial Board

Prof. H M D Namal Priyantha
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Prof. B M R Bandara

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Dr. R J K U Ranatunga

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Master of Philosophy Degree Awardees (January - June 2016)

Chemical Sciences

M U S Wickramasooiya

K G E Padmathilake

M A R N Wijesinghe

Plants Sciences

Y A S Samithri

Statistics and Computer Science

H R K Nagahamulla

M A P Chamikara

N D Liyanagedera

Zoological Sciences

G C P Diyes

Postgraduate Diploma Awardees (January - June 2016)

Applied Epidemiology

D M W C B Dissanayake

Applied Statistics

K G I N Jayarathne

P G W Ariyasena

Computer Science

A M S N Abeysinghe

Environmental Science

W P S D Pathirana

V Sivatheesan

M A D M D De Silva

G K H Madusani

Experimental Biotechnology

P R L Dabare

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Master of Science Degree Awardees

(January - June 2016)

Analytical Chemistry

I N Wickramathilaka
W I K Warnakula
B S B Karunathilaka
P V G M Rathnayake
M E J Senevirathne

Applied Epidemiology

B C G Mendis

Applied Statistics

A G S K Warnakulasooriya
K M W G T Meerigama
M K H Karunaratne
A L A P M Athapaththu

Biodiversity, Ecotourism & Environment Management

A W M Azam

Computer Science

H M S K B Herath
S Garigaraganapathy
S Kirushanth
M Samarakoon
T D P Dharmawardhana
G Sashikumar
R K P Kumara
A S Amarasinghe
H P S U Jayathilake
H M A B Herath
N W K D V P Opatha
S L Z Ahamed
A S P Arachchi
S S Herath
D M Ekanayake
R W J C Rajasinghe
W G A Wimalasena
K W M S B Kamathewatta
K Vignaraja
B K P K Perera
A K N L Aththanagoda

Computer Science

(Degree by course work)

D R Y M Deegalla
S Kesavamoorthy
J K G S Jayasinghe
K Vijayasundara
J A M N D De Silva

Disaster Management

D I S Jayasinghe
C A Walawwatte
C T R Siriwardana
J M M C K Jayasundara
K Parthipan

Engineering Geology & Hydrogeology

S M U S B Samarathunge
D M P K Gunasekara
M D Janaka
I R Wickramathilaka
P D Prasad

Environmental Science

W P S Wijethilaka
S S R Pathmakumara
D Sangaralingam
D Chathurangani
M G P Bandara
H M G R Senevirathna
B B Kangaraarachchi

Experimental Biotechnology

J D Thilagam
T C M F Karunarathna

Gemmology and Industrial Minerals

G D Ranthunga

GIS & Remote Sensing

N A Ekanayake
A C S Ihalawela
N S W S P Nanayakkara
M G N R Karunasena
A H K K Pathmadewa
P L Pradeep
D S K Algama
G H M Perera
E H Liyanathukorala
T M D S Gunasekera
W A L Wickramanayake
C N Thilakarathne
P G K D Palandagama
D P H L R Perera
D D U Anjana
W M M P E Bandara
A A A Chinthaka
K Thulasivarman
S Deepakrishana
T Jayasinghe
K M S U K Chandrathilaka
G A M D Gunarathna

Industrial Chemistry

N V M Gunawardhana

Industrial Mathematics

A S M P M B Agalawatte

Medical Microbiology

P K S Tissera
H D Koswatta

Medical Physics

K A P Sanjeeva
T R C K Wijayarathna
Y P Y Ariyasinghe
T R C K Wijayarathna

Nanoscience & Nanotechnology

K K H De Silva
N J Punchihewa
A M S L B Attanayake
H A Y N Perera
W M S S wanigasekara
L Y Rangali
H Y Aly

Physics of Materials

P V H L Kulathunga
S P T K Pathirana

Science Education

K W Ramani
G R M K K Ratnayake
N K D Wickramasinghe
A Vigneshwary
D M M P Dissanayake
J Uthayan
T N P Jayarathna
M A P Makawita
N P Rajapaksha
W M C K Basnayake
N Prashanthan
R Dhinesh
A H Riyaza
P E Ilukkumbura
K R W M V K Uduwela

PGIS

The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) is a national institution attached to the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. The PGIS offers postgraduate training in a wide range of disciplines in science. The academic programmes of the PGIS are conducted through the following Boards of Study:

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Chemical Sciences
- Earth Sciences
- Environmental Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Plant Sciences
- Science Education
- Statistics and Computer Science
- Zoological Sciences

In addition to the M.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes, the PGIS routinely conducts workshops, certificate courses and short-term training programmes and offers consultancy services in different disciplines of sciences.

Academic staff members with postgraduate qualifications from world-recognized universities serve in the teaching staff of the PGIS. PGIS and the Faculty of Science provide excellent laboratory facilities. Additionally, other science-based faculties of universities, research institutions and some industries also provide laboratory facilities to PGIS students.

Opportunities for a higher degree of your choice ...

- M.Sc. by course work (1 year)
- M.Sc. by course work and research (1.5 years)
- M.Sc. by research (2 years)
- M.Phil. by research (2 - 3 years)
- Ph.D. by research (3 - 4 years)

M.Sc. DEGREE PROGRAMMES

At present, the PGIS offers M.Sc. degree programmes in the following disciplines:

- Analytical Chemistry
- Applied Epidemiology
- Applied Statistics
- Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management
- Clinical Biochemistry
- Computer Science
- Disaster Management
- Environmental Science
- Experimental Biotechnology
- Gemmology and Industrial Minerals
- GIS and Remote Sensing
- Industrial Chemistry
- Industrial Mathematics
- Information Technology
- Medical Microbiology
- Medical Physics
- Nanoscience and Nanotechnology
- Pharmaceutical Botany
- Physics of Materials
- Plant Science
- Postharvest Technology of Fruits and Vegetables
- Science Education
- Water Resources Management

All M.Sc. programmes include two semesters of course work. Most M.Sc. programmes are conducted during weekends. The minimum requirement for registration for an M.Sc. degree programme is a B.Sc. degree in the relevant discipline from a recognized university or any other equivalent qualification.

Interested applicants are requested to visit the PGIS website <http://www.pgis.lk> for course contents and other details.

M.Phil./Ph.D. RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES

The PGIS offers postgraduate research degree programmes leading to the Degrees of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). Candidates registered for these degrees are required to engage in a research project under the guidance of a supervisor. The minimum requirement for registration for an M.Phil. or Ph.D. degree is either an M.Sc. degree or a B.Sc. degree in the relevant area of study from a recognized university or any other equivalent qualification. Research programmes are available for M.Phil./Ph.D. candidates under different Boards of Study.

Occasional studentships are available for those who wish to follow courses of choice and use other facilities over short periods without being registered for a postgraduate degree programme.

The PGIS welcomes applications from prospective students for M.Phil./Ph.D. (full-time or part-time) programmes. Please visit the PGIS home page (<http://www.pgis.lk>) for more details and application forms.

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