



# PGISNews

Activities and Progress of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS),  
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

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and  
Symposia

Short  
Courses and  
Workshops

Research,  
Collaborations  
and Funding  
Opportunities

Commencement  
of Masters  
Programmes

Degrees  
and  
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Awarded

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### PGISNews

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## Conferences and Symposia



### PGIS Holds its Annual Research Congress (RESCON-2019)

The 6<sup>th</sup> PGIS Research Congress was held successfully on 11 October 2019 at the PGIS with the participation of over 350 scientists, and the event was jointly organized by the PGIS and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research. His Excellency Mr. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest. Mr. Dhirendra Singh, the Assistant High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka and Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne, the Deputy

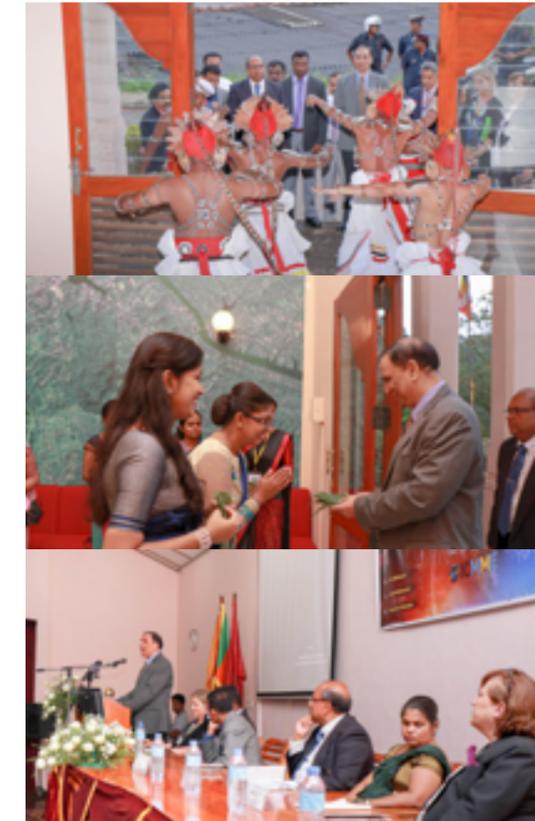
Vice-Chancellor of University of Peradeniya also graced the occasion. Prof. Alan Lyons of Department of Chemistry, The City University of New York, College of Staten Island, USA, delivered the Keynote Address. The inaugural session was followed by Technical Sessions, where 145 papers were presented (117 oral and 28 poster presentations) under five broad themes: Earth and Environmental Science; Information and Communication Technology, Mathematics

and Statistics; Life Sciences; Physical Sciences; and Science Education. The oral presentations were held in 9 parallel sessions, while poster presentations were on display throughout the day. The Congress Dinner was held at the Amaya Hills Hotel, Kandy, after the technical sessions. Prof. Chandani Perera was the Chairperson of the organizing committee and Dr. Suranjith Gamaarachchige was the Secretary.

### Mathematicians and Mathematics Educators Meet at an International Conference (ICMME-2019)

The first International Conference on Mathematics and Mathematics Education was held at the PGIS from 22 to 23 March 2019 with 155 participants, and it was jointly organized by the PGIS (Board of Study in Mathematics and Board of Study in Science Education), Ministry of Education and National Institute of Education. The Chief Guest at the inaugural session was Hon. Dhirendra Singh, the Assistant High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka and the Guest of Honour was Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya. The conference covered the research disciplines of

pure mathematics, applied mathematics and mathematics education. There were 69 presentations (53 oral and 16 poster) at the conference. The two Keynote Speakers were Prof. Kathy Hordam from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and Prof. Rhonda Craven from the Institute of Positive Psychology and Education, Australia. Prof. Pamini Thangarajah from Mount Royal State University, Canada, spoke on 'Challenges and Opportunities in Online Education for Undergraduates'. The conference organizing committee was co-chaired by Prof. W B Daundasekara and Dr. W D Chandrasena.



### PGIS-Taiwan Joint Symposium on What's New in Water and Air Pollution Research

Having identified the significance of environmental pollution levels and possible remedial measures through novel research, PGIS together with National Chung Hsing University (NCHU), Taiwan, organized an International Symposium on Water and Air Pollution - Recent Advances in Research, which was held from 29 to 30 March 2019 at the University of Peradeniya.

This event was co-chaired by Prof. H M D Namal Priyantha (University of Peradeniya) and Prof. Mumin Chen (National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan), and there were 171 participants. The main themes of the Symposium were: Air Pollution and Atmospheric Modeling; Detection of Atmospheric Pollutants - Novel/Alternative Methods; Fate of Pesticides in the

Environment and Pesticide Pollution; Industrial Pollution and Remedial Measures; Pollution in Freshwater and Marine Systems. The Keynote Address was followed by four invited speeches by experts in the field of air/water pollution, and 41 oral presentations and 6 poster presentations under the above five themes.



## Scientists Discuss Water Quality and Human Health at an International Symposium



The 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Water Quality and Human Health was held at the PGIS from 6 to 7 December 2019 with the participation of 132 scientists. The Chief Guest of the conference was Prof. Saman Seneweera, the Director, National Institute of Fundamental Studies. Prof. Upul B Dissanayake, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya were also present at the occasion.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. P H Amerasinghe of the International Water Management Institute, IWMI. The symposium included 40 presentations under four key themes: Water Quality and Water Resources, Water Treatment and Remediation, Water Pollution and Human Health and Aquatic Biology. The Keynote Address was followed by three invited speeches by eminent scientists. The presentations

were made at six technical sessions over two days. The symposium-organizing committee chaired by Prof. Sudharma Yatigammana, had 5 sub-committees comprising academic staff and postgraduate students of the PGIS. The Secretary of the organizing committee was Dr. Thiloka Ariyasena and the Coordinator was Dr. Subhashini Gunathilake.

## Environmental and Medical Statistics Highlighted at an International Conference

The International Conference on Environmental and Medical Statistics (ICEMS-2020) was held at the PGIS from 9 to 10 January 2020 with the participation of 70 scientists representing several national and international universities, research institutions and industries. The Conference was jointly organized by Department of Statistics and Computer Science, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya and PGIS in collaboration with University of Maryland, Baltimore County

(UMBC), USA. The Chief Guest of the conference was Hon. Dhirendra Singh (Assistant High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka) and the Guest of Honour was Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya). Two plenary speeches, seven keynote speeches and eight invited speeches were delivered by eminent scientists at the conference. The plenary speeches were delivered by the two distinguished speakers Dr. Barry Nussbaum,

past President of American Statistical Association and a former Chief Statistician of Environment Protection Agency, USA, and Prof. Thomas Mathew, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Maryland Baltimore County, USA. The keynote speeches were delivered by 7 eminent researchers, six from universities in the USA and one from an Australian university. The invited speeches were delivered by outstanding researchers, three



## Symposium on Traditional Medicine and Research

The Symposium to Promote Research in Traditional Medicine was conducted at the PGIS on 25 June 2019 with the participation of 132 Ayurvedic practitioners. The Symposium was jointly organized by the Provincial Department of Ayurveda, Central Province and Provincial Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation and Child Care Services, Central Province in collaboration with the PGIS. Dr. Dhammika Abeygunawardena (Commissioner, Ayurveda Department, Central Province) and Prof. H M T G A Pitawala (Director, PGIS) addressed the gathering and Prof. Nimal Gunatilleke (Symposium Coordinator) highlighted the

objectives of the programme. Technical sessions included presentations on the following topics: Plant identification - the key to all plant-based studies (Prof. Deepthi Yakandawela); Sociological classification of medicinal plants according to their traditional Sinhala names (Prof. H M D R Herath); Role of Botanic Gardens on research and conservation of medicinal Plants (Prof. Siril Wijesundera); Honey bees and their food plants (Prof. Inoka Karunaratne); Assessment of mineral alteration and antimicrobial potential of some Rasashastra Formulations (Prof. H M T G A Pitawala and Ms. Apsara Wijenayake); Traditional medicine and chemistry (Prof.

from universities of USA and five from local universities. In addition, there were 33 papers presented at the conference by researchers from both local and foreign institutions. The presentations were made under two themes, Environmental Statistics and Medical Statistics; the oral presentations were held in 12 technical sessions. There was a separate session for local undergraduates to present their research and an award was given to the best oral presentation. The technical sessions were followed by the Conference Dinner on 9 January 2020 at Hotel Topaz. Prof. Pushpakanthie Wijekoon and Prof. Nagaraj Neerchal were the Co-Chairpersons of conference-organizing committee.



## Short Courses and Other Activities



Participants and organizers of the 116<sup>th</sup> Short Course

### Short Courses on GIS and Applications

A total of eleven short-term programmes (nine short courses, one advanced short course and one training programme) in the series on GIS and Applications were conducted at the PGIS by the Board of Study in Earth Sciences during 2019 and 2020. The objectives of the short courses were to expose officers from state and

private sector organizations to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) for efficient management and planning. Also, to provide them with basic theoretical and comprehensive hands-on training in the use of GIS for a variety of applications. All the programmes were coordinated by Dr. Jagath Gunatilake.



Participants of 113<sup>th</sup> Short Course during a field session



Participants of 117<sup>th</sup> and 118<sup>th</sup> Short Courses in GIS in a laboratory and at a field session

Programme	Dates	No. of Participants	Participants
108 <sup>th</sup> Short Course	March 4-9, 2019	05	Engineers and Officers from Department of Irrigation
(109 <sup>th</sup> ) Training Programme on GIS	29 March 2019	60	Surveyors of the Kandy Licensed Surveyors Association and Land Surveyors Council
110 <sup>th</sup> Short Course	May 27-30, 2019	11	Research Staff from the Sri Lanka Parliament
111 <sup>th</sup> Short Course	June 17-22, 2019	11	Officers of Disaster Management Centre (Kegalla) and Sri Lanka NAVY (North Central Province)
112 <sup>th</sup> Short Course	Nov 25-30, 2019	38	Engineers and Assistant Engineers from National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB), Ceylon Electricity Board and GIS Solutions Ltd.
113 <sup>th</sup> Short Course	Dec 5-6, 2019	21	Engineers from Center for Urban Water and Metro Colombo Urban Development Project and Ministry of Urban Development
114 <sup>th</sup> Short Course	Dec 9-14, 2019	21	Geologists and Engineers from Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, Lecturers from Peradeniya, Uwa Wellassa and South Eastern University, and Officers of Sri Lanka Air Force, Defense Ministry and Land Use Planning Department
115 <sup>th</sup> Advanced Short Course	Dec 16-21, 2019	5	Engineers and Technical Assistants from Irrigation Department, Kandy Municipal Council and Land Development Corporation, Medical Officer from Kelaniya University and an MPhil Student of PGIS
116 <sup>th</sup> Short Course	Jan 27 - Feb 1	35	Engineers and Assistant Engineers from NWSDB
117 <sup>th</sup> Short Course	Feb 10 - 15	45	Engineers and Assistant Engineers from NWSDB
118 <sup>th</sup> Short Course	March 2 - 7	47	Engineers and Assistant Engineers from NWSDB

### Advanced Course in Organic Chemistry

The Advanced Course in Organic Chemistry conducted by the Board of Study in Chemical Sciences, commenced on 11 January 2020 with 18 postgraduate students who are currently pursuing their higher studies at the PGIS or involved in research related work. This 4 credit-course comprises four

1-credit modules: Advanced Spectroscopy and Separation Techniques; Biomolecules and Biosynthesis; Organic Synthesis and Drug Design; Structure, Reactivity and Stereochemistry. The following serve as resource persons: Prof. B M R Bandara, Prof. A Wickramasinghe, Prof. N L V V Karunaratne, Dr.

V N Seneviratne and Dr. J M S Jayasinghe from the Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya and Prof. U L B Jayasinghe from the National Institute of Fundamental Studies. This is an ongoing course and is coordinated by Prof. U L B Jayasinghe and Dr. D R Uduwela.

### Seminar on 'Do Genes Hijack and Play-Hide-and-Seek? Dissecting "Designer" Genes for Crop Improvement'

Prof. Dilantha Fernando (Dean, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) conducted a seminar on 'Do Genes Hijack and Play-

Hide-and-Seek? Dissecting "Designer" Genes for Crop Improvement' at the PGIS on 22 January 2020. There were 45 participants at the seminar.

The seminar was organized by the Board of Study in Plant Sciences of the PGIS

## Workshops



### Introducing Scientific Writing to New Registrants

PGIS conducts regular workshops on Scientific Writing for Ph.D., M.Phil. and Masters students registered at the PGIS to help them improve their writing skills. Six such workshops were held at the PGIS during 2019 and 2020. Each workshop comprised lecture (7 hours) and hands-on practical (6 hours) sessions on different aspects of postgraduate thesis

writing. The topics covered at the workshop were: Structure and Layout of a Thesis; Title and Abstract; Introduction and Bibliography; Computer-Aided Literature Survey; Experimental/Materials and Methods; Results, Discussion and Conclusions; and Ethics in Scientific Writing. Dr. N C Bandara coordinated the workshops



Programme	Dates	No. of Participants	Participants
13 <sup>th</sup> Workshop	Feb 9-10, 2019	61	Masters (Nanoscience and Nanotechnology/Physics of Materials/Science Education), M.Phil./Ph.D. students
14 <sup>th</sup> Workshop	March 16-17, 2019	120	Masters (Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology/ Gemmology and Industrial Minerals/GIS and Remote Sensing/Water Resource Management), M.Phil./Ph.D. students
15 <sup>th</sup> Workshop	June 29-30, 2019	89	Masters (Computer Science/Industrial Mathematics), M.Phil./Ph.D. students
16 <sup>th</sup> Workshop	Sep 7-8, 2019	84	Masters (Applied Statistics/Disaster Management/ Experimental Biotechnology/Science Education), M.Phil./Ph.D. students
17 <sup>th</sup> Workshop	Nov 9-10, 2019	99	Masters (Computer Science/Industrial Mathematics/ Information Technology), M.Phil./Ph.D. students
18 <sup>th</sup> Workshop	Feb 29-March 1, 2020	109	Masters (Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management/Clinical Biochemistry/GIS and Remote Sensing/ Medical Physics), M.Phil./Ph.D. students

### Prof. Alan Lyons Conducts a Post-Congress Workshop on Scientific Writing



The post-congress Workshop on Scientific Writing was organized by the Board of Study in Chemical Sciences of the PGIS and was held at the PGIS on 12 October 2019. The resource person of the workshop was Prof. Alan Lyons, Department of Chemistry, The City University of New York, College of Staten Island, USA. A group of 135 including M.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D. students of the PGIS and temporary staff members/ demonstrators and fourth-

year undergraduate research students of Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, participated in the workshop. The two sessions conducted in the morning were devoted to teach participants to write a successful research article. In the afternoon session, the participants were actively involved in group activities. The workshop was coordinated by Prof. Chandani Perera and Dr. Subhashini Gunathilake.

### Training on Research Report Writing

The Science Education Alumni Association (SEAA) of the PGIS organized and conducted a 2-day Workshop on Research Report Writing for PGIS students following the M.Sc. in Science Education Programme to promote scientific report writing skills of the students who have not completed their research work/thesis writing yet. The workshop was held from 1 to 2 June 2019 at the

PGIS with the participation of 32 students. The workshop consisted of interactive lecture sessions: Motivation; Writing Introduction; Writing Literature Review; Writing Methodology; Data Analysis, Writing Results and Discussion; Writing Conclusions and Suggestions; Abstract Writing; and Dissemination of Scientific Findings. The above sessions

were conducted by Prof. H M S P Madawala, Prof. S Karunaratne, Dr. Ashoka Abeykoon Menike, Dr. P R K A Vitharana, Prof. C V Hettiarachchi, Dr. T M S S K Yatigamma and Mr. A M R S Bandara. Members of the SEAA volunteered to be facilitators of the workshop which was coordinated by Dr. T M S S K Yatigamma and Mr. A M R S Bandara.



## Introduction to Scientific Research

The Workshop on Initiation of Research was organized by the Board of Study in Science Education of the PGIS and conducted for students of the M.Sc. in Science Education (Mathematics Education)-2017/2018 batch in order to help them in deciding on a research project, framing objectives, preparing the research proposal and commencing research. The workshop was conducted

at the PGIS on 30 August 2019 with the participation of 19 students. There were five presentations at the workshop: Expectations of an M.Sc. Research Project (Dr. R Palamakumbura); A Guide to Research in Education (Dr. W D Chandrasena); Data Collection in Educational Research (Dr. W D Chandrasena); A Crash Course in Analyzing Qualitative and Quantitative Data (Dr.

M Dehideniya); Time Frame of Your Research and Case Studies (Dr. A K Amarasinghe). The final session on 'Questions and Answers' was presided by Prof. H M S P Madawala, Dr. W D Chandrasena, and the two Coordinators of the mathematics subject component. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. A K Amarasinghe and Dr. R Palamakumbura.

Thilanka Gunaratne). They also visited the restoration site close to Pitawala Patana and the participants were briefed on 'The role of the Forest Department in Reforestation Activities and Outreach Programmes' (Mr. K Illukumbura). The workshop was concluded after visiting the nursery of the Forest Department at Imbuldandawa where participants were briefed on 'Nursery Management Practices' by Forest Officers. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Thilanka Gunaratne and Prof. Sumedha Madawala.



## Importance of STEM Education: Teachers to Heed



A Workshop on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education was held at the PGIS from 14 to 15 December 2019 with the participation of 41 teachers from the Central Province. Three resource persons, Prof. S Karunaratne (PGIS), Dr. Asoka De Silva (National Institute

of Education - NIE) and Mrs. B W G Dilhani (Ministry of Education) conducted the workshop. The workshop was jointly funded by the Provincial Office of the Ministry of Education (Central Province) in Kandy and the PGIS.

## Addressing a Welcome Move - Greening Sri Lanka

The Workshop on Greening Sri Lanka was held from 13 to 14 December 2019 with 32 participants representing universities, Municipal Councils, plantation sector, non-governmental organizations and schools. This workshop was organized by the Board of Study in Plant Sciences of the PGIS and funded by the IUCN of Sri Lanka and Bank of Ceylon.

Prof. H M T G A Pitawala (Director, PGIS) welcomed

the participants to the workshop and highlighted the importance of greening activities in Sri Lanka. Technical sessions of the first day was held at the PGIS: 'Ecological Restoration: Principles and Practice' (Dr. Thilanka Gunaratne); 'Restoring the Soil' (Prof. Sumedha Madawala); 'Nursery Management for Restoration' (Prof. Gehan Jayasuriya); and 'Urban Greening' (Prof. Kapila Yakandawala). The participants visited the

National Agriculture and Communication Centre at Gannoruwa and observed the greening techniques used in buildings. On the second day, the participants visited the Riverstone area in Knuckles Forest Reserve. They gained knowledge on 'Effects of Restoration on Fauna' (Dr. Priyanka de Silva) and 'Importance of Conducting Restoration Research Before Implementing Large-scale Reforestation Projects in Reserves' (Dr.

## Patent Drafting



Workshop on Patent Prior Art Search and Drafting was organized by the Board of Study in Plant Sciences and held at the PGIS on 12 February 2020. There were 12 participants comprising Ayurveda doctors, Ph.D. holders and M.Sc. and M.Phil. students. The resource person

was Dr. Manjula Sandirigama, an Intellectual Property (IP) Consultant. The workshop was based on three sessions: Fundamentals of IP and How University Research and Development (R&D) can be Commercialized through IP; How to Do a Prior Art Search as a Means of Avoiding

Reinventing the Wheel and Ascertaining the Patentability of Your Own R&D; and Write Your Patent Yourself and Save Exorbitant 'Legal' Fees. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Priyanga Wijesinghe and Dr. Chandima Ariyaratna.

## Events Organized Jointly by PGIS and International Affairs Office

### Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Joins with PGIS to Sharpen Research Skills

#### 1. QUT Workshop on Effective Research Supervisory Practices

Prof. Saiful Karim, Faculty of Law, QUT conducted the Workshop on Effective Research Supervisory Practices at the PGIS. Forty-six academic staff members of University of Peradeniya participated at the workshop and the programme focussed on the effective supervisory practices including student-communication and -writing.

#### 2. QUT Workshop on Higher studies opportunities and prospective research student

Dr. Stephen Cox, Director/ Higher Degree Research Studies, QUT Business School and Professor Helen Klaebe, Pro-Vice Chancellor, QUT conducted the above workshop for undergraduate and postgraduate students of University of Peradeniya. About 170 students who wish to continue their higher studies participated in the workshop.



### Sri Lanka-Japan on Collaborative Research (SLJCR 2019)

International Affairs Office (IAO) in collaboration with Sri Lanka-Japan Study Centre (SLJSC), Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka and PGIS organized and conducted the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sri Lanka-Japan Collaborative Research (SLJCR-2019) at the PGIS on 24 August 2019. His Excellency Akira Sugiyama,

Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session. Prof. Upul B Dissanayake (Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya), Prof. Toshihiko Nakao and Prof. C N R A Alles (Co-Chairs/SLJCR-2019), Prof. H M T G A Pitawala (Director/PGIS), Prof. S Wickramasinghe (Director/SLJSC) and Dr. S

Jinadasa (Acting Director/IAO) were also present at the inaugural session. There were 42 presentations and 100 participants at the conference. Scientists presented, discussed and exchanged ideas on collaborative research between Sri Lanka and Japan.



### Bridge to Japan – A Post-Conference Workshop

Following the conference (SLJCR 2019), the post-conference workshop on Bridge to Japan was held at the PGIS on 24 August 2019. The resource persons at the workshop were Prof. Buddhi Marambe (Faculty of Agriculture), Prof. S de Silva (Saga University, Japan), Prof. N S Cooray (International University of Japan), Prof. Y Murayama (University of Tsukuba of Japan), Mr. Takeshi Ozaki (Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka), Prof. S

Wickramasinghe (Director/SLJSC) and Dr. S Jinadasa (Acting Director/International Affairs Office). The workshop addressed the undergraduate and postgraduate students who wish to pursue their higher studies in Japan and focussed on forming research partnerships with Japanese researchers. About 60 participants including academic staff and students of University of Peradeniya were present at the workshop.



### Addressing Artificial Intelligence - The Latest in Science



A four-day Workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) was organized by the International Affairs Office and the Board of Study in Statistics and Computer Science of the PGIS and was held from 3 - 6 September 2019 at the PGIS. The resource person was Prof. Teresa Gonçalves from Department of Informatics,

University of Evora, Portugal. The workshop focussed on AI, artificial neural networks and machine learning algorithms, along with a practical session using Weka software. There were 34 participants from the Faculties of Engineering and Allied Health Sciences and the PGIS.



## European Union’s Research and Innovation Programme, ‘Horizon 2020’



The International Affairs Office and Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Sri Lanka and the Maldives in collaboration with the PGIS organized a one-day seminar on ‘Horizon 2020’ to make academics/researchers be aware of EU’s research and innovation programme. The seminar was held at the PGIS on 24 October 2019. Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake (Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne

(Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Directors of Postgraduate Institutes and Deans of Faculties were also present. Mr. Frank Hess, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the EU to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Ms. Tania Friederichs, Head Counsellor for Research and Innovation at EU Delegation to India, Mr. Mattia Ceracchi, International Cooperation Service Facility of the EU and Mr. Ranjan Kathiravel, Delegation of the EU to Sri Lanka and the Maldives shared their expertise

on funding opportunities for cooperation between Sri Lanka and Europe through Horizon 2020 programme. The Seminar provided useful information on the following: the areas funded under the ‘Horizon 2020’, available research career opportunities, and how to prepare/submit proposals and networking platforms. There were 105 participants including academic members, postdoctoral students and members from the industry

## Awareness Session on ‘Erasmus+’ Programme

International Affairs Office (IAO) in collaboration with the PGIS organized an awareness session at the PGIS on 14 November 2019, for university academics on the ‘Erasmus+’ programme. Information on ‘Erasmus+’ funding programmes-2020 were shared among the 47 participants. Mr. Roshan

Pradeep (IAO) gave an overall introduction to the ‘Erasmus+’ programme focusing on the following: International Credit Mobility (ICM) of individuals; Capacity Building Projects in Higher Education (CBHE); Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees; and Jean Monnet Activities. Prof. Anoma Abhayaratne

shared her expertise on CBHE projects. A panel discussion was held with the participation of Dr. N Gunawardhana, Prof. A Abhayaratne, Prof. N Dharmasena, Prof. P Wijekoon and Dr. S Jinadasa as panel members.

## The Japanese Embassy Outlines Postgraduate Opportunities in Japan

A seminar on Postgraduate Opportunities in Japan was organized by the Embassy of Japan to Sri Lanka in collaboration with Sri Lanka-Japan Study Center (SLJSC), International Affairs Office and the PGIS. The seminar was held at the PGIS on

13 February 2020 with 100 participants. Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne (Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Prof. H M T G A Pitawala (Director, PGIS), His Excellency Mr. Akira Sugiyama (The Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka) and Prof. Kamala Liyanage addressed

the audience. A presentation highlighting the following was organized by the Embassy of Japan: postgraduate programmes in Japan, the application procedure and scholarship/funding opportunities.



## Research, Collaborations and Funding Opportunities



### New Research Laboratories and Facilities

The PGIS developed two new research laboratories with up-to-date laboratory features. The first group of students including 1-Ph.D., 5-M.Phil. and 12-M.Sc. students have already started their research studies in the new laboratories. The PGIS is in the procurement process to purchase a modern wavelength dispersive XRF instrument.

### Collaborations with National Research Institutes

The PGIS is focusing on facilitating its students to conduct their research projects in collaboration with other national research institutes. The PGIS has already initiated collaborations with the following institutes, and more institutes are expected to join soon:

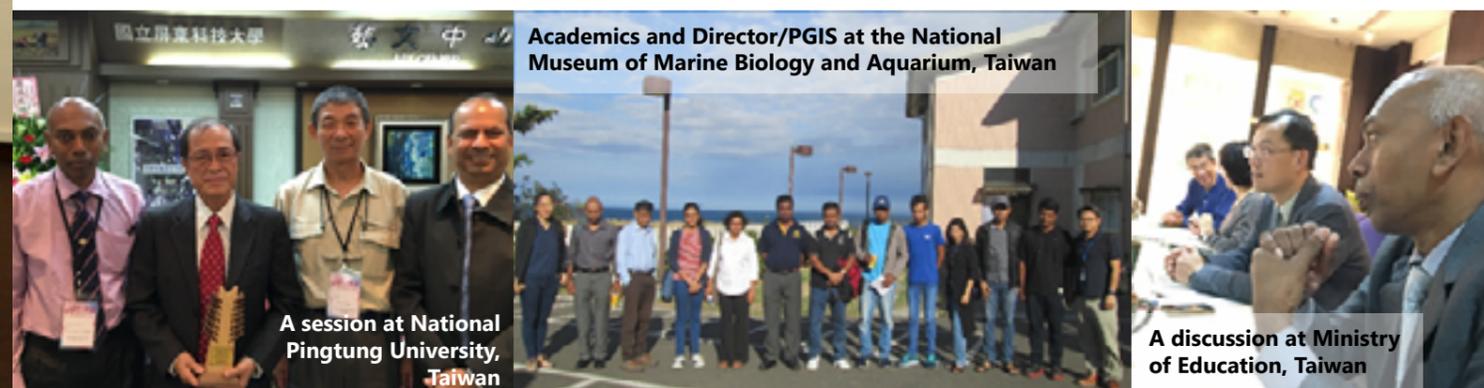
- Industrial Technology Institute (ITI)
- Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC)
- Geological Survey and Mines Bureau Technical Services (GSMB)



## International Collaborations

### Taiwanese Universities

PGIS has initiated academic collaborative programmes with some Taiwanese universities, mainly with the National Chung Hsing University (NCHU). Several International Symposia, co-chaired by NCHU and PGIS were successfully conducted. Two Symposia recently held are; Energy, Environment and Nanotechnology at NCHU in 2018, and Air and Water Pollution at UOP in 2019. Both Symposia were well attended by researchers of both countries. This international collaboration was strengthened by visits of Taiwanese professionals to Sri Lankan universities. Further, groups of academics representing the PGIS have visited some universities and research institutes in Taiwan, namely, NCHU, National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium (NMMBA), National Sun Yat-sen University and National Central University. During these visits, discussions on further strengthening academic and research programmes, in particular, possibilities for joint research programmes, joint research symposia and staff/student exchange programmes, were discussed.



### Chinese-Sri Lankan Scientists Explore the Geology of Sri Lanka

PGIS initiated a collaborative project titled 'Tectonic Evolution of Sri Lanka in Gondwana' with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Beijing, China. The Chinese research team led by Prof. Mingguo Zhai (State Key Laboratory of Lithospheric Evolution, Institute of Geology and Geophysics, CAS) visited Sri Lanka in 2018 to collect rock samples from different parts of the country. Prof. H M T G A Pitawala, Prof. S P K Malaviarachchi and Dr. P L Dharmapriya participated at a workshop on 'Modern Analytical Geochemistry and Its Applications' organized by the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, CAS from 3 to 17 November 2019.

Under this collaborative programme, PGIS students will be able to visit the CAS to carry out advance analytical studies related to their research projects. In 2019, Mr. Pahan Abeywardane and Miss Gayathri Wijerathne who are reading for M.Phil. Degrees at the PGIS visited the CAS for 3 months and 3 weeks, respectively. The Chinese team plans to sign an MOU with the University of Peradeniya to expand their mutually beneficial work.





## Sakura Programme



Four students of the M.Sc. Programme in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology programme of the PGIS participated in the 'SAKURA Science Plan' organized by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). The programme was held at the Shizuoka University, Japan, from 22 to 29 September 2019. The following four students were selected with the assistance of Prof. R M G Rajapakse, Coordinator of the M.Sc. Programme, to participate in the programme:

- U M T M Gunathilaka
- P M S U Bandara Parakatawella
- S H D P Wijekoon
- W C Jayawickrama

## International Funds for Research

Project Title	Partner Institution (Country)	Duration	Coordinator
Anodic Oxidation of Organics Present in Industrial Wastewater	International Foundation for Science (Sweden)	01/06/2018 - 01/06/2021	Dr. K G N Nanayakkara
Curriculum Development in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence	Asian Institute of Technology-AIT (Thailand)	12/06/2019 - 12/06/2022	Dr. A Pinidiyaarachchi Prof. P Wijekoon
Conserving Kurunagala Lake for Sustainable Water Supply	Thangyang University of Technology (Singapore)	01/07/2019 - 31/01/2021	Dr. K B S N Jinadasa

## Grants and Funding Opportunities

### PGIS Research Grants

The PGIS Research Grant scheme aims to support and promote research studies of academic staff and to assist them train students to conduct research studies leading to M.Phil./Ph.D. degrees. The permanent academic staff/scientists of University of Peradeniya and other institutions who are affiliated to the PGIS are eligible to apply.

## Taiwanese Universities

As a result of academic cooperation between the PGIS and Taiwanese universities, many Sri Lankan students were awarded scholarships for M.Sc. and Ph.D. programmes in National Chung Hsing University and National Sun Yat-sen University. At present, more than 15 graduates of University of Peradeniya and other universities of Sri Lanka are reading for postgraduate degrees at these two universities.

## DAAD Scholarship Scheme to Sri Lanka

The DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) scholarship scheme provides opportunities for local scientists to work with professors and researchers at German universities and research organizations by joining their ongoing research studies.

### Popular Scholarship Schemes:

Programme	Scholarship Scheme	Fields
Masters	EPOS - Development Related Post-graduate Courses	Engineering, Mathematics, Agriculture, Forest Science, Natural Sciences, Environment Science, Medicine, etc.
Masters	PPGG - Public Policy and Good Governance	Open for any Bachelors degree holder
Ph.D. (Sandwich Course)	Research Grants - Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees / Cotutelle	Any discipline
Ph.D. (General)	Research Grants - Doctoral Programmes in Germany	Any discipline

To find the research programmes and scholarships available at German institutions you may visit:

<https://www.daad-sri-lanka.org>

## Industrial and Entrepreneur Support with Spinoff Programmes

The PGIS has initiated collaborations with the industry under 17 research areas through 4 business engagement models.

### Industry-Focused Research Areas of PGIS:

- Advanced materials
- Agricultural and food product development
- Air and water purification
- Analytical equipment and instrument manufacturing and maintenance
- Biotechnology
- Cosmetics and nutraceuticals
- Data science solutions and big data analysis
- Energy storage and harvesting
- Mineral based value-added products
- Natural products
- Packaging solutions
- Pharmaceuticals and healthcare products
- Polymer technology
- Smart devices and sensors
- Smart textiles
- Surface and coating technologies
- Waste to products, waste treatment and waste minimization technologies

## Business Engagement Models of PGIS:



### Model 1 - Funding of PGIS research assistants:

The PGIS provides assistance to industry to solve research problems or initiate development projects through sponsoring Ph.D., M.Phil. or M.Sc. research projects of PGIS students. The details for participating in this programme are available at the following link: <https://forms.gle/GZkvb17pSmtdPLr6>. As the first client, MAS Linea Aqua has agreed to sponsor a PGIS student to conduct a research project on textile technology.

### Model 2 - Investment for commercialization of completed projects/products:

PGIS students have completed many industry-oriented and applied research projects for which patents have been obtained. Investors would be able to extend such projects to commercial stage. A fill-in form is available at the following link for prospective investors to request for a list of patented projects: <https://forms.gle/4EYh1CxGWX7c2Puj9>.

### Model 3 – Client-initiated R & D short-term projects:

Clients can hand over proposals for short-term (6-12 month) research and development projects to the PGIS. A team of experts of the PGIS will evaluate the project proposal, have initial discussions with the client and develop a research proposal with client's input. Further details are available at the following link: <https://forms.gle/ebhAYLMink3CbPW96>.

### Model 4 - Supporting of small-scale businesses:

The PGIS is focusing on developing small-scale businesses that would grow into leading industries/businesses at international level. A fill-in form is available at the following link for prospective clients to enter this programme: <https://forms.gle/rVo5ohjvgUYzDAtc6>.

## PGIS Spinoff Programme

The PGIS has started a spinoff programme mainly focusing on PGIS students and alumni to allow them to start their own businesses based on their research projects conducted at the PGIS. Several business parties have agreed to assist the programme with financial support, marketing assistance and technical knowhow. The PGIS, at present, is in the process of preparing MOUs with these parties. Details will be published in due course.

Link to join the programme: <https://forms.gle/EE5QR6kYJhVkJXqCM6>

## Find Us on Social Media:



<https://www.facebook.com/Postgraduate-Institute-of-Science-PGIS-University-of-Peradeniya-Sri-Lanka-123380532393978/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/school/postgraduate-institute-of-science-pgis-university-of-peradeniya/>



[https://www.researchgate.net/institution/University\\_of\\_Peradeniya/department/Postgraduate\\_Institute\\_of\\_Science](https://www.researchgate.net/institution/University_of_Peradeniya/department/Postgraduate_Institute_of_Science)

## Student News



## Recognizing Ph.D. Researchers

### Prof. Felix Prashantha Amarasinghe Memorial Research Award

Dr. T C Weeraratne of the Department of Zoology was awarded the Prof. F P Amerasinghe Memorial Research Award for the best research contribution in the field of Zoological Sciences in 2018/2019 for her research study on 'DNA bar-coding, genetic diversity, genetic structure and age structure of selected mosquito species of Sri Lanka'.

### Recipients of Merit Scholarships in Masters Programmes

The following three students who had excelled in their studies were awarded certificates of merit and cash prizes at a ceremony held at the PGIS on 12 July 2019:

- Mr. R M D Bandara (Masters Programme in Physics of Materials 2017/2018)
- Mr. K H N D Rupasinghe (Masters programme in Computer Science 2017/2018)
- Ms. G A I Uwanthika (Masters programme in Computer Science 2017/2018)

## Commencement of Masters Degree Programmes 2019/2020

### Inaugural Session Held on 22 February 2019 with 145 New Students

Masters Programme	Board of Study (Chairperson)	Coordinator(s)
Applied Statistics	Prof. P Wijekoon	Prof. P Wijekoon Dr. S Abeyesundara
Information Technology		Dr. A Pinidiyaarachchi
Biodiversity, Ecotourism & Environment Management	Prof. G W A R Fernando	Dr. S K Yatigammana Mr. C Wijesundara
Disaster Management	Prof. H M T G A Pitawala	Prof. B S B Karunaratne
Experimental Biotechnology	Prof. R G S C Rajapakse	Prof. R G S C Rajapakse Prof. S Ranasinghe
Science Education	Prof. S Madawala	Dr. W D Chandrasena Dr. R Perera
PG Diploma Programme in Science Education		Dr. A R G A M Abeykoon Menike

### Inaugural Session held on 12 July 2019 with 260 new students



Masters Programme	Board of Study (Chairperson)	Coordinator(s)
Analytical Chemistry	Prof. A D L C Perera	Prof. A Navaratne Dr. S Gunatilaka
Industrial Chemistry		Dr. C S Kalpage Dr. S Jayasinghe
Nanoscience and Nanotechnology		Prof. R M G Rajapakse Prof. R G S C Rajapakse Dr. A C A Jayasundara
Applied Epidemiology	Prof. S Yatigammana	Prof. S Yatigammana Dr. S Kumburegama
Clinical Biochemistry	Prof. R G S C Rajapakse	Prof. H K I Perera Dr. I Fernando
Computer Science	Prof. P Wijekoon	Prof. A A I Perera Dr. R Nawaratne
Engineering Geology & Hydrogeology	Prof. H M T G A Pitawala	Prof. H A Dharmagunawardane Dr. Jagath Gunatilaka
GIS & RS		Dr. Jagath Gunatilaka
Water Resources Management		Prof. H A Dharmagunawardane
Environmental Science	Prof. G W A R Fernando	Prof. G W A R Fernando Dr. G A N Suranjith
Industrial Mathematics	Prof. A A I Perera	Dr. M I M Ishak
Pharmaceutical Botany	Prof. D Yakandawala	Prof. G A D Perera
Physics of Materials	Dr. S Bandaranayake	Dr. V A Seneviratne

## Recipients of Ph.D. Degrees

at the General Convocation-2018 of the University of Peradeniya held on 4 July 2019

### Ph.D. – Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

S Sayanthoran

### Ph.D. – Chemical Sciences

U G R L Wanniarachchi  
W M G I Priyadarshana  
A Manjceevan

### Ph.D. – Earth Sciences

A M N M Adikaram

### Ph.D. – Environmental Science

A G P Aravinna  
R S Diyabalanage

### Ph.D. – Physics

W G C Kumarage  
C A Thotawatthage

### Ph.D. – Plant Sciences

K Mohana

## Recipients of M.Phil. Degrees

at the General Convocation-2018 of the University of Peradeniya held on 4 July 2019

### M.Phil. – Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

U M U W Jayasekara  
T P Keerthirathne  
R Visvanathan  
R W K Amarasekara

### M.Phil. – Chemical Sciences

D M R T D K Divisekara  
K U B Gunatilake  
D N P R Jayakantha  
D S N K Liyanagamage  
S Thilakarathne

A G M S Wijesingha

### M.Phil. – Earth Sciences

P A S R D Perera  
L H M T M B Ambillapitiya

### M.Phil. – Environmental Science

M B U Perera  
W M L S Weerasundara

### M.Phil. – Physics

K J R S Fernando

### M.Phil. – Plant Sciences

B M S K Bandaranayake

### M.Phil. – Statistics and Computer Science

C M M Mansoor  
K R Wijeweera  
M A C Jiffriya

### M.Phil. – Zoological Sciences

I S Ileperuma Arachchi  
N Kanesharatnam

## Recipients of Masters Degrees

at the General Convocation-2018 of the University of Peradeniya held on 4 July 2019

### M.Sc. in Analytical Chemistry

R M L T Rajapaksha  
G H S D Pathmasiri  
P W C M Purijjala  
R G G R Pradeep  
D M D A Bandara  
I A L Ipalawaththa  
V S Withanage  
H Dananjaya  
I W D N Wickramarachchi  
L R C Premalal  
R A D S M R Weerasekara  
R M V H C Rajapakshe  
L S R Liyanage  
H M C H Herath  
G K Rupasinghe  
D M A L Dissanayake  
G P R S Premachandra  
W D P T K Wimalasena  
K S D Premarathna  
H D H Thrilanka  
J H M J S Ranaweera  
U N D Uduwela  
P W Y Lakshani  
J A P C Jayasinghe  
S M Hinnawala  
U W Erandini

### M.Sc. in Applied Epidemiology

H P S D Palliyage

S D M Maheer

### M.Sc. in Applied Statistics

H M S M Herath  
M I R Ahamed

### M.Sc. in Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management

H M P Peiris  
P Rajkumar  
Z Hassan  
N D Samarawickrama  
T K Weerakkody  
K Arjunan  
P Jeyanthini  
D P Kalyanawansa

### M.Sc. in Clinical Biochemistry

M M M Shafras

### M.Sc. in Computer Science

A Kanisto  
W H M R Y Wijekoon  
W A Malkanthi  
M S Shafana  
W S J M M U P Senevirathne  
D M P S Dissanayake  
W M A Bandara  
S M S P Sundarapperuma

S D D N Sirimevan

V E Nirmalan  
K M G K Herath  
D S R C Sawanawadu  
K N G Kasthuriarachchi  
S Sriharan

### Master of Computer Science

A T Bandaranayaka  
T Jathubalatharan  
A D M Gunaratnam  
K Aniththithan  
V Thiyagarajah  
L S K Lokuliyana  
N D Hemachandra  
S A C Prasanna  
G Arunath  
D M D M Dissanayake  
H M B U Herath  
G Prashanth  
K Suthesan  
K Thambaijiah  
M Kohulan  
V Visithan  
W B P K Roshan  
H M T P Herath  
S S Senevirathna  
V I Thilange  
J M J K Jayasundara  
D Uththamawadu

H M H E Kumarasiri  
Y Achchuthan  
B M N M Balasooriya  
H N T Gamage  
K Ethayaraj  
S Partheepan  
A M L K Attanayake  
R M M A Dassanayake  
H M M A Herath  
K M M P B Kulathunge  
M R R S Kumaradasa  
L Jeyamanohara  
T M I K Thilakarathne  
W M C M Weerawanni  
G C K Wijeratne

### M.Sc. in Disaster Management

S Shanmugarajah  
K Sivendram  
S Suthakaran  
W G W Wanasinghe

### M.Sc. in Engineering Geology & Hydrogeology

B K C Basnagoda

### M.Sc. in Environmental Science

N M P J G C P Nawarathna  
A M E N Adhikari  
H P Amaratunga  
W P G S E Jayarathna  
A Kanchhana  
G D N M Rajapaksha  
J A I Senadheera  
R M U H Senanayake  
J W M E S Weerappuliarachchi  
W M G I S L Wijethunge  
K V D H R Karawita  
M P N M Dias  
R M N K Rajakaruna  
B M C S Wijesinghe  
D M Abeysekara  
H M K P Dissanayake  
D M K G Dissanayake  
A P Wijesinghe  
D L Munasinghe

### Master of Environmental Science

T M Atimorathanna  
U I M Bandara  
Y A N Buddhika  
I A N Perera  
R M K M Rathnayaka  
M L J Shanika  
G K S N Wijesinghe  
M A D N Manchanayaka  
M A F Shafna  
T W G F M Nijamdeen

### M.Sc. in Experimental Biotechnology

K M M G Karunanayake

S N P Withanage  
E G C N Premathilaka  
P Sivagnanasundaram  
H P K U Jayathilake  
R N Dissanayake  
U H K Dissanayake  
S A S M Kumari  
M A P Ratnasuriya  
M G K P Dayarathne  
M Arani  
R B Senanayake

### Master of Experimental Biotechnology

J N Christabel  
H A B M Hathurusinghe  
K L M Jayawardana  
R A D D Lakshika  
J M P S Madamarandawala  
A S J Maryam  
C S Sepalage  
B Renukadevi  
B M U K Bandaranayake  
S R Edirisinghe  
R D S M Gamlath

### M.Sc. in Gemmology & Industrial Minerals

A A D C Shanthapriya  
S V T D Raveendrasinghe

### M.Sc. in GIS & Remote Sensing

S N Edirisinghe  
S S K Sujanthi  
W M L Weerasinghe  
K B C Jayanthi  
H M N G I P Herath  
H P Siriwardhana  
V L N Thembiliyagodage  
S Nishanthi

### M.Sc. in Industrial Chemistry

A N R Wickramasinghe  
A M R Ruwan  
L A A H Gunathilaka  
D M W K Dissanayake

### Master of Industrial Chemistry

F S Nazim  
W M P D K Wijethunga

### M.Sc. in Industrial Mathematics

W A D M Welagedara  
A M S K Abeykoon  
A M P Chandrasiri  
S B M A U Herath  
A M R Sandamali  
M A U S Marasinghe  
W T C H Costha  
S H Thalpehewa  
M G P A K Thilakarathna  
L D V P De Silva

### M.Sc. in Nanoscience & Nanotechnology

H L S K Hiniduma  
A W M V Ekanayake  
S Ehanathan  
S Kiruththika  
H B Ihalagedara  
N M Gunawardana  
K E D Y T Dayananda  
D N Liyanage  
L M S U Lemasthota  
U G M Ekanayake  
K Raagulan  
B P N Gunawardhana  
W R W M A U B Weerakoon  
A Heenatigala

### M.Sc. in Medical Microbiology

S D K Wijesuriya  
T Tharmalingam  
W M A Indeewari  
T P G R R Karunarathna  
T S Munasinghe  
M N F Shahnas  
K C A S Somarathna

### M.Sc. in Medical Physics

S Colombage  
M Jeyasuthan  
D K A Vithanage  
M S P Marasinghe  
S W Arachchi

### Master of Pharmaceutical Botany

H A A Iresha  
W A R M Wanasinghe  
R Chandrika  
K Ratnathurai

### M.Sc. in Physics of Materials

K L G Sankalpa  
H K D W M K U K Hapuhinna

### M.Sc. in Science Education

A A U N Samarakoon  
H S Peramunage  
D M P S Dissanayake  
E M P G S Y Priyadarshani  
S Ramiz  
N A Didi  
S A B Maheshinee  
D I Abeywickrama  
M A F F Farlin  
H H V M Sanjeevani  
L J H Wijayasekara

### M.Sc. in Water Resources Management

D V S Samarasingha

## Recipients of Postgraduate Diplomas (January 2019 - March 2020)

### Analytical Chemistry

F M D Remunthupillai  
M D P R Hemachandra  
E H P N Perera  
H M J M B Jayarathna  
R M T P K Rathnayake  
D R C P Kumara

### Applied Statistics

S Thavarajah  
W G D P Weligala  
J M A N Jayasinghe  
R M N D Rajapaksha  
A I C Amaraweera  
N M Z A Mohamed  
W G C P Kendawala  
Kirishnapiriyam Nagarathnam  
D M R Dissanayake  
Nithyanandan Thambiraja  
A S N T R W M D C B Ambahera  
Jeyaraj Thevarajah  
K A S K Perera  
H A R N Wijesingha

### Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management

R G A D Rajapaksha  
K V M Ariyasena

### Clinical Biochemistry

V S Jinadasa  
N M R V Narasinghe  
R M P D Rathnayake  
Maduwadani Vijayarathnam Suhanya  
M I Garusinhe  
R W Hewabettage  
Chandrakumar Sai Saraniya

### Computer Science

R A H M U Chandrasekara  
N J Fathima  
Jerin Amirthanathar  
K A L S Kalugampitiya  
M D T D Mahavithana  
M M M Mohamed  
H S V M Perera  
Janarthanan Ponnampalam  
W A A C K Wickramaarachchi  
Sanjeevan Rameshwaran  
P C K Nandasiri

Khedika Subramaniam  
B L C Batuwatta

### Disaster Management

T M W S Bandara  
M A D Bandara  
A N Sisirakumara  
H R P B Erabadupitiya  
E G C Amarasiri  
M A K Kumari  
K D G Pathirathna  
M M G N H Wijerathna  
W M D K Jayawardana  
K M G K S Kumara  
Ragavan Pararajasingam  
R S Mathivathanan  
K L D S Kumara

### Engineering Geology & Hydrogeology

W M T U Wickramanayake  
H M D Madushan

### Environmental Science

W A N Dilani  
S P A U Senarath  
R M S K Rathnayaka  
C V Arulanandam  
M M N Abdul  
Priyatharshan Yogaraja  
Uthayasurian Kirisanthan  
W A C D K Jayawardhana

### Experimental Biotechnology

D M I Samaranyake  
H K S N S Gunarathne  
N J Fathima  
S D D S Wijesundara  
Shivarangan Sivabalasingam  
R A U S Rupasinghe

### GIS & Remote Sensing

A K D P Amarasinghe  
L L R B De Silva  
G H G B P N Kumara  
D H M S M Piyathilaka  
D M U S Dissanayake  
L A D G Chandrasiri  
P G A Weerasingha

### Industrial Chemistry

W G K Senanayake  
W M N D Chandrasekara  
D P U K Gunathilake  
Jedin Selvaratnam  
W U A B Wanninayaka  
E M T A Ekanayaka  
E J N Thilakaratne  
C N Bandara  
R W M L Bandara

### Industrial Mathematics

M A Umarlebbe  
S S D Balasinghe  
B P M C Deshapriya  
N P Kumara  
Pavitha Thirupukaloorsingam  
Udhayakumar Nadarajah  
L A T De Silva  
W C Pramudika  
D A C P K Ariyaratna

### Medical Microbiology

S M Weerasinghe  
R M Peiris  
H M U S Herath  
H P P A Jayasinghe

### Medical Physics

Jawfar Kariyappar

### Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

K D G H Kottapala  
A J M H L Senevirathna  
A R K L Athauda  
S D A Rathnaweera  
W D C M Perera  
M A H M Munasinghe

### Physics of Materials

Krishnakumar Rajendram  
A J P S Kumara

### Science Education

W M M D K Weerasekera

### Water Resources Management

L G D S Yapa

## Young Researchers' Forum (YRF)



YRF members on a hike to Hanthana on 12 November 2019.

The Annual General Meeting of the Young Researchers' Forum (YRF) was held at the PGIS on 9 January 2019 and the following M.Phil. candidates were elected as the office bearers:

President - Amith Ruparathna  
Secretary - Anushi Peiris  
Treasurer - Gayan Sasanka  
Vice President - Asitha Malikaramage  
Editors - Madushanka Samaraweera and Chandima Samarasinghe

Two YRF members delivered special talks at the PGIS. Mr. Chaminda Alahakoon, an M.Phil. candidate spoke on 'Importance of Testing and Maintaining Seed Vigor' on 15 February 2019. Mr. Tharanga Wijewickrama, a Ph.D. candidate delivered a presentation entitled 'Ecological impacts of Bamboo Spread in the intermediate zone forests in Sri Lanka' on 14 March 2019.



Young PGIS researchers who were members of the organizing committee of the PGIS Research Congress at the registration desk.

YRF members who were involved in organizing activities of the International Symposium on Water Quality and Human Health held at the PGIS from 6 to 7 December 2019.



### Contact details:

[yrfpgis@gmail.com](mailto:yrfpgis@gmail.com)

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

## Staff News

### Prof. Pitawala Assumes Duties as the New Director of PGIS

Prof. H M T G A Pitawala, Senior Professor in Geology at the University of Peradeniya assumed duties as the Director of the PGIS on 25 March 2019. He also served as the Acting Director of the PGIS from 2 January 2018 to 24 March 2019.

### Director of PGIS Conferred Ananda Coomaraswamy Medal

The Geological Society of Sri Lanka (GSSL) awarded the prestigious 'Ananda Coomaraswamy Medal 2017' to Prof. H M T G A Pitawala on 22nd August 2018 for his outstanding contribution towards exploring the geology of Sri Lanka.



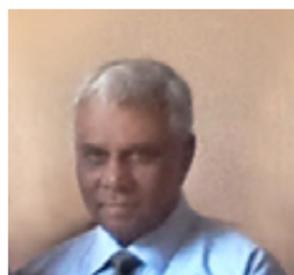
### Founder Director of PGIS Returns for a Short Stint

Prof. R P Gunawardhane, the founder Director of the PGIS, served as a Visiting Consultant Professor to the PGIS for a period of 4 months in 2019. During this period, he assisted to plan and formulate new Masters programmes and short courses in the emerging areas of science that cater to national needs and attract foreign students. He also assisted in numerous other activities which included upgrading of policy documents/guidelines, promotion of outreach activities and initiation of Learning Management System (LMS)-Moodle for online teaching activities. He has submitted two reports to the PGIS proposing future activities and a long-term plan for the development of postgraduate education, training and research in natural sciences at the PGIS.



### Obituary: Demise of Prof. D T B Tennakoon

It is with great sorrow that we report the passing away of Prof. D T B Tennakoon, a former member of the Board of Management of the PGIS. He was the founding Chairperson of the Board of Study in Chemical Sciences of the PGIS. He was involved in teaching postgraduate courses and training M.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D. research students. He was an excellent teacher and a well-respected academic nationally and internationally.



### PGIS Staff being Trained in Teamwork and Leadership

The PGIS staff took part in a workshop on Teamwork and Leadership on 28 November 2019. The workshop was held in the premises of Hotel Tree of Life. The programme also included several group activities indoors and outdoors.



## Other News

### Opening of the New Building - A Welcome Addition to the PGIS



The new building of the PGIS was ceremonially opened by Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya on 18 July 2019. Prof. H M T G A Pitawala, Director of the PGIS addressed the invitees in the conference room of the new building. A 'Pirith' ceremony was held on the following day.



### PGIS Celebrates New Year

The Vice Chancellor and the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Directors of Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture and National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Members of the Board of Management and staff and students of the PGIS were present at the new year tea party held on 3 January 2020 at the PGIS Rooftop Hall.



# Opportunities for Higher Degrees of Your Choice at the 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**
- **Biomedical Sciences**
- **Chemical Sciences**
- **Earth Sciences**
- **Environmental Science**
- **Mathematics**
- **Physics**
- **Plant Sciences**
- **Science Education**
- **Statistics and Computer Science**
- **Zoological Sciences**

In addition to the Masters, 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 science.

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

## Degrees Offered:

**Masters (1 year)**  
(SLQF Level 9)

**M.Sc. (2 years)**  
(SLQF Level 10)

**M.Phil. (2 - 3 years)**  
(SLQF Level 11)

**Ph.D. (3 - 4 years)**  
(SLQF Level 12)

SLQF - Sri Lanka Qualification Framework

## Masters Degree Programmes

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

- Analytical Chemistry
- Applied Epidemiology
- Applied Statistics
- Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management
- Clinical Biochemistry
- Computer Science
- Data Science
- Disaster Management
- Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology
- 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
- Science Education
- Water Resources Management

All Masters Degree programmes include two semesters of course work. Most Masters programmes are conducted during weekends. The minimum requirement for registration for a Masters degree programme is a B.Sc. degree in the relevant discipline from a recognized university or any other equivalent qualification. The completion of a one-year research project in addition to two semesters of course work is required for the award of M.Sc. Degree.

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.

## INQUIRIES

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