



KDU NEWSLETTER

GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

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Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara Assumes Duties as the New Vice Chancellor of KDU: An Iconic Leader Respecting Tradition and Valor



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Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara assumed duties as the new Vice Chancellor of KDU: An iconic leader respecting tradition and valor

Vice Chancellor Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, VSV, USP, psc, MMaritimePol, BSc (DS)

Adding colour to the vibrant tapestry of Sri Lankan naval history, Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, VSV, USP, psc, MMaritimePol, BSc (DS) made history by becoming the first KDU alumnus appointed as the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU). He assumed duties as the 6th Vice Chancellor of KDU on 01st September, 2023.



Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara's educational journey began at Kegalu Vidyalaya in Kegalle, and on 6th October 1988, he joined the Sri Lanka Navy as an Officer Cadet of the 6th Intake of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence Academy (KDA). After completing his basic degree (BSc) in Electrical Engineering at KDA, he underwent naval training at the Naval and Maritime Academy (NMA), Trincomalee, and was commissioned as an Acting Sub Lieutenant on 5th October 1990.

Pursuit of knowledge through academic milestones

Parallel to progressing in his illustrious military career, Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara's pursuit of academic excellence took him across the globe. He completed the Sub Lieutenant Technical Course at the Naval and Maritime Academy (NMA) and specialized in Anti-Submarine Warfare at the Indian Naval Ship Venduruthy in Kochin, India. In 2005, he undertook a Staff Course (psc) in China, and in 2015, he was selected for the Senior Naval Command Course at the Naval Command College in Nanjing, China, where he earned a Postgraduate Diploma. Additionally, he holds a Master's Degree in Maritime Policy (MMaritimePol), conferred by the University of Wollongong, Australia, in 2018.

Pioneering excellence in training future leaders

Throughout his career, Rear Admiral Kumara demonstrated a deep commitment to naval training and education, and he was entrusted with several key appointments responsible for the grooming of future naval officers.

Prior to holding the most prestigious post of naval training, the appointment of Director General Training, Rear Admiral Kumara held appointments at various training establishments such as Training Commander at SLNS Shiksha; Training Commander SLNS Shilpa; Acting Training Commander; Deputy Training Commander; Coordinator for Junior Naval Staff College; the Commandant of the Premier Training Institute of the Sri Lanka Navy - the Naval & Maritime Academy; and as Head of Training Team of Defence Services Command and Staff College, Sapugaskanda, Sri Lanka. Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara has shown tremendous professional growth throughout the years and an impressive dedication towards the betterment of Sri Lanka Navy. Whilst shouldering the responsibilities as the Coordinator for Junior Naval Staff College, Rear Admiral Kumara rendered commendable service by standardizing the curriculum of the course, and he shouldered the sole

responsibility of affiliating the Post Graduate Diploma to Junior Naval Staff Course. Further, he has made a significant contribution to affiliate KDU accredited degree programmes for Officer Under Trainees of the Naval and Maritime Academy, Trincomalee.

Global impact through international academic engagements

Rear Admiral Kumara's academic expertise was recognized internationally as well. As a result of that, he was appointed to present papers at the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium 2013, which was held in Mumbai, on 'Challenges and Opportunities for Maritime Cooperation among Indian Ocean Region Navies'. Further, he presented a research paper at the International Seminar on Naval Construction and Operation Under Modern Conditions 2015 under the topic of 'Present Day Revolution in Military Affairs and Its Impacts on Naval Operation' in PR China, and Forum on the Future Seas 2015 under the topic of 'Indian Ocean Region and Way Ahead for Sri Lanka Navy' in PR China.

Further, he was also invited to conduct lectures at the Bangladesh Command and Staff College, Mipoor, on the topic of 'Counter Revolutionary Warfare and Sri Lankan Experience' in 2016 because of his expertise in Maritime Security. Also, he represented Sri Lanka Navy as head of the delegation in the Sea Power Conference 2022 in Australia. He is one of the principal authors of the first ever published 'Maritime Doctrine in Sri Lanka (MDSL)' as well as one of the officers who pioneered the concept of organizing the first ever Galle Dialogue International Maritime Conference in Sri Lanka in 2010.



A heroic leader to the motherland

Throughout the 30-year internal conflict in Sri Lanka, Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara displayed remarkable courage while commanding Fast Gun Boats in operations around the island. Notably, in 2000 during the Nagarakovil Defence operation, his leadership in providing Naval Gun Fire Support played a crucial role in repelling terrorist boats, which significantly aided the Sri Lanka Army in maintaining their position. He also directly engaged LTTE Sea

Tigers while serving as the Officer-in-Command on Fast Attack Craft. In his distinguished career, Rear Admiral Kumara commanded the Fast Missile Vessel SLNS Nandimithra and the Offshore Patrol Vessel SLNS Samudura. He later held several key positions, including Commander Western Naval Area, Commandant of the Volunteer Naval Force, and Commander Eastern Naval Area, before assuming duties as Vice Chancellor-KDU.

Awards and honors for exemplary leadership

Rear Admiral Kumara's illustrious career is marked by numerous awards, including the Vishista Seva Vibhushanaya (VSV) and the Utthama Seva Padakkama (USP), recognizing his unwavering dedication and exemplary conduct along with ten other Service Medals for his dedicated service to the motherland. Due to his professionalism, maintenance of loyalty and integrity throughout his career, and strong work ethics in all aspects of his work, he was able to hold appointments as Flag Lieutenant to Commander of the Navy (CofN), Aide and Personal Secretary to the CofN and Naval Assistant to CofN for three different Navy Commanders. The six commendations he has received from five different Commanders of the Navy bear witness to his outstanding contributions.

The personal journey behind the leadership

Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara married Mrs. Inoka Weerakoon in 2003, and they are blessed with a daughter, Senethma Galamulage. Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara's appointment as Vice Chancellor is a testament to his exceptional career and his deep-rooted commitment to both Sri Lanka Navy and KDU. Under

his visionary leadership, KDU has great expectations to grow and excel, and reach unprecedented heights as a world-renowned university and as one of the highest learning seats in the global defence education.



General Convocation of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University 2023



General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University witnessed the crowning moment of achievement of its students of Intakes 34, 35, 36, and 37 at KDU General Convocation 2023 held on 03rd and 04th October 2023 at the BMICH.

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University currently has 6255 in-house undergraduates, both cadets and day-scholars. At this year's convocation, 1769 graduands from all faculties and affiliated military institutions were conferred with degrees by General SHS Kottegoda (Retd) WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc, the Chancellor of the University. Among this year's degree holders, 02 received the Doctor of Philosophy degree, 01 received a Master of Philosophy degree, 103 received master's degrees, and 1490 received their bachelor's degrees. In addition, 09 received Postgraduate Diplomas.

2/Lt RTLA De Silva, A/SLt SH Madanayaka, and Plt Off WARD Jayathilake from the Army, Navy and Air Force received Best Cadet Officer awards for their respective services. The Sword of Honour for the Best All-Round Performance of Intake 36 was awarded to A/SLt SH Madanayaka. Honourable Ranil Wickremesinghe, the



President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, graced the final session of the convocation as the Chief Guest. The Chief of Staff to the President & National Security Advisor, State Minister of Defence, the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Tri Forces Commanders, distinguished invitees, KDU academia, and the family members of the graduates were among the invitees at the convocation.





The Graduation Dinner for Intakes 34, 35, 36, and 37 of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) took place at Eagles' Lakeside Banquet Hall in Attidiya on 6th October 2023 with the participation of Officers of the Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force and Day Scholars.

General SHS Kottegoda (Retd), the Chancellor of KDU, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event was attended by dignitaries such as Vice Admiral UVMP Perera the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy; Air Marshal RAUP Rajapaksa, the Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force; Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, the Vice Chancellor of KDU; Major General Milinda Peiris (Retd), the former Vice Chancellor of KDU; the rectors of the Southern Campus and Metropolitan Campus of KDU; Commandants of affiliated institutions; the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Def & Admin); Deans of all Faculties; Directors of KDU; Senior Military Officers; Academic and Administrative Staff of KDU; and the newly graduated Officers and Day-Scholars.

Military decorum and traditions were observed, including the display of the President's Colours and University Colours. The evening featured a loyal toast to the President, and five additional toasts symbolizing fraternity among the tri forces in Sri Lanka and celebrating the graduates' accomplishments. The event was a delightful climax for the series of events related to the graduation of 1769 graduates including more than 400 officers, and Day Scholars in different disciplines, and it signified the final accomplishment of their relentless journey at KDU.



ACADEMIC AWARDS

KDU Research Excellence Award



Dr. MWP Maduranga from the Department of Computer Engineering at the Faculty of Computing, won the KDU Research Excellence Award in the academic staff category achieving the position of second runners-up. This award serves as a testament to his outstanding contributions to research through the dissemination of his work in peer-reviewed journals and conferences. The award was presented by the Vice Chancellor-KDU, in the presence of Honourable Sagala Ratnayaka during the Inauguration Ceremony of the International Research Conference in 2023.

IEEE WIE Affinity Group of KDU grabs dual honors at IEEE Sri Lanka section awards ceremony

The IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group of KDU received two prestigious awards at the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Award Ceremony held on November 4 at Carolina Beach Hotel, Chilaw. The project “Cypher” won the “Best Affinity Group Project of Sri Lankan Section” under the student category, while “Ricerca” was nominated as one of the Best Affinity Group Projects. Additionally, the group was honoured



with the “Emerging Affinity Group of Sri Lankan Section” award under the student branch category. Notably, the group achieved these feats within just three years since inception. The guidance and encouragement from Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, Vice Chancellor- KDU, Dr. Asela Gunasekara, Student Branch Counsellor, and Advisors Ms. Kalani Ilmini and Ms. Isuri Uwanthika were appreciated by the winning team. The group’s success was attributed to the visionary leadership provided by past and current chairwomen, including Ms. Nipuni Wickramarathna, Ms. Pamathi Gunarathne, Ms. Dewni Deraniyagala, and Current Chairwoman Ms. Gayashani Divyanjalee, along with their executive committee members. This achievement is seen as a significant milestone that inspires continued efforts to empower women in STEM fields and recognizes the collective impact of excellence and innovation in engineering and technology.

Groundbreaking research on ocean wave energy conversion wins Best Paper Award

Two distinguished researchers, Commodore (E) MCP Dissanayake and Commander (E) (Retd) HGS Hikkaduwa, from the Department of Marine Engineering, secured the prestigious Best Paper Award at the fourth Technical Session at International Research Conference on 8th September 2023. Their groundbreaking paper titled Preliminary Wave Energy Assessment to Setup a Breakwater-type Oscillating Water Column Ocean Wave “Energy Converter at Hambantota Port, Sri Lanka”, garnered acclaim for its innovative approach to harnessing renewable energy from ocean waves.



KDU IRC is a platform that brings together experts and scholars from various fields to showcase their research endeavours and exchange knowledge. The recognition of this research paper at such a prestigious event is a testament to the outstanding work conducted by these two researchers.

KDU Mooters clinch the Henry Dunant Moot Court Championship, 2023

The Moot Team from the Faculty of Law at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, comprising Mr. Chandrika Manamendra, Mr. Ashan De Alwis, and Ms. Devmini Bandara, emerged as the Champions of the National Rounds of the Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition 2023 on International Humanitarian Law. Mr. Chandrika Manamendra also received the award for the Best Speaker. The final round took place on 26th October 2023 at the University of Colombo, where the KDU team prevailed over the Colombo University team. Dr. Mario Gomes, Executive Director of (ICES), Colombo, led the panel of judges. The KDU team will now represent Sri Lanka at the Regional Rounds of the Competition in New Delhi, India.



KDU launches first dedicated website for sustainable development

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) inaugurated its first ever website dedicated to sustainable development on 7th November 2023. Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, the Vice-Chancellor, officially launched the website, together with Deputy Vice-Chancellors Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe and Prof. KAS Dhammika. This milestone signifies KDU's commitment to transparency

and accessibility in its sustainability endeavours. The website aims to disseminate information about sustainability initiatives, educate staff and students, foster community involvement, and collaborate with other institutions.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed the importance of shared responsibility and integrating sustainable practices into all operations. Prof. Prasanna Premadasa, Chair of the KDU sustainability committee, expressed gratitude and highlighted the platform's role in showcasing KDU's alignment with UN SDGs. The event concluded with a sustainability pledge, affirming KDU's dedication to sustainable development and inspiring others to follow suit.

Faculty of Technology conducts an impressive technology exhibition

The Freshers' Exhibition organized by the undergraduates of the Faculty of Technology was held on 16th September 2023. This exhibition was held to provide a platform for students to showcase their talents. The chief guest was, Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, VSV, USP, psc the Vice Chancellor of KDU.

The exhibition featured a diverse array of projects spanning various domains of technology, highlighting the faculty's commitment to fostering innovation and excellence.

The exhibition was attended by students from a large number of schools in and around Colombo. At the conclusion of the exhibition, the most popular exhibit was selected based on the voting by the visitors. Accordingly, the "Face recognition door unlock system" was chosen as the "Most popular exhibit item".



Students from the Faculty of Technology showcase innovations at National Science Exhibition

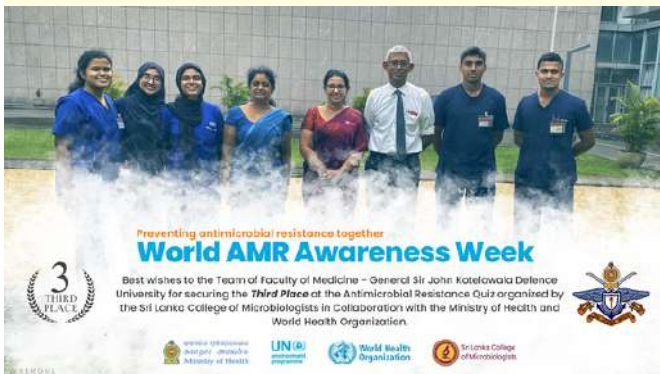
Upon invitation, students from the Faculty of Technology showcased their exhibits, innovations, and technology degree programs at the National Science Exhibition held at the Colombo National Museum from November 8 to 10. Organized by the Education Ministry's Research and Innovation Branch under the theme 'Prosperity through Scientific Empowerment,' the exhibition aimed to celebrate the World Science Day and promote the latest advancements in science and technology.

The KDU stall at the exhibition drew attention to a diverse array of innovative projects, highlighting the faculty's commitment to fostering technological innovation and excellence. The event provided a platform for students, academics, and industry professionals to present their contributions to the field of technology.

The faculty's participation highlighted its commitment to fostering innovation and quality education, attracting significant attention from visitors.



Faculty of Medicine, KDU secures 3rd Place at the inter-medical faculty quiz competition held for WAAW 2023



During the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) from November 18 to 24, students from the Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University secured the 3rd place at the inter-medical faculty quiz on antimicrobial resistance held on 15th November 2023. The event was organized by the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. Participants from KDU included Officer Cadet MDR Lakshitha, Ms RSSP Kachchakaduge, Ms FFA Hamid, Officer Cadet VDR Matharaarachchi, and Ms UAS Ryhan trained by Dr. WMID Nakkawita and Dr. PBV Nawarathne.

Ms FFA Hamid, Officer Cadet VDR Matharaarachchi, and Ms UAS Ryhan trained by Dr. WMID Nakkawita and Dr. PBV Nawarathne.

E Rickshaw participated in MuCycle parade organized by the Ladies College, Colombo 07

The E Rickshaw which was innovated by the Department of Marine Engineering under the guidance of Head of the Department, Commodore (E) MCP Dissanayake, USP, psc participated in the MuCycle parade which was organized by the Ladies College, Colombo 07 on 26 August 2023.

Dr. Anuji Gamage, Senior Lecturer in Public Health of the Faculty of Medicine at KDU, connected KDU and Ladies College through the E Rickshaw. The Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University approved the vehicle's participation in the MuCycle Parade, showcasing its unique design and eco-conscious features.



Displaying E-Rickshaw

Marine Engineering Society assists in introducing E-Rickshaw for patient transportation: A remarkable step towards corporate social responsibility

In a remarkable display of corporate social responsibility, the members of the Marine Engineering Society of the Faculty of Engineering collaborated with Commodore (E) MCP Dissanayake, USP, psc, Head of the Department, to introduce an E-Rickshaw service. This initiative aims to address the transportation needs of patients residing in Werahera by facilitating their transfer to and from the University Hospital KDU.

The E-Rickshaw, an eco-friendly and electric-powered vehicle, serves as the ideal mode of transportation for patient transfers. With its zero carbon emissions and cost-effective nature, this vehicle not only addresses environmental concerns but also provides a comfortable and safe commute for patients. The Marine Engineering Society has carefully tailored the E-Rickshaw to meet the specific needs of patients, ensuring their well-being throughout the journey.

Relatives pay tribute to a fallen war hero from KDU at KDU War Heroes' Monument

The parents of the late Lieutenant AWB Vitharana – Navy of KDA Intake 11 visited KDU War Heroes' Monument on 19th October 2023 to pay respect to the fallen war heroes and lay down floral tributes in memory of them. KDU War Heroes' Monument commemorates the sacrifices of the 109 KDU officers of tri forcers who served to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the motherland.



Fire drill at FOE



The Marine Engineering Society with the support of the Department of Marine Engineering successfully conducted a fire drill at FOE on 23rd August 2023. The purpose of the exercise was to enhance the fire hazard awareness among faculty members and students and to educate them on evacuation procedure and other precautionary measures to be taken in case of fire. At the end of the exercise, a training session was conducted to train staff members and students on handling procedure of first-aid, fire extinguishers and fire main system installed in the FOE building. All academic and non-academic staff member and students of the FOE actively participated in the exercise.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

KDU IRC 2023



The 16th International Research Conference (IRC) of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) on “Achieving Resilience through Digitalization, Sustainability and Sectoral Transformation”, was held from 07th to 08th September 2023. Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Chief of Staff to the President and National Security Advisor, was the Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony on 7th September, 2023. General Kamal Gunaratne, the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Dr Nandalal Weerasinghe, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, delivered one keynote speech while Prof Leland H. Hartwell, Nobel Prize Winner for Medicine or Physiology in 2001, delivered the second keynote speech.



The conference theme encapsulated contemporary challenges and aspirations, emphasizing the need to seek solutions and foster understanding for future generations. The 'Research Excellence Awards' were distributed to academic staff and students who excelled in research.



Students achievements in IRC 2023

The following papers presented by KDU undergraduates won the Best Paper Award in respective clusters of poster presentations at the 16 International Research Conference (IRC 2023) of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) which was held on 07th and 8th September 2023.

The paper titled **"Gripper-enhanced Fabric Cut Piece Sorting System based on Defects"** in the cluster of **"Automation and Development Engineering"**, authored by D. C. Hewavitharana, L. T. U. D. Wickramathunga, T. N. N. Rajapaksha, P. S. H. Pallemulla, and H. D. I. Piyumini. The paper

titled **"Indoor Human Following Assistive Robot with Fall Detection Capability for the Elderly and the Differently Aabled"** in the cluster of **"Biomedical Engineering"**, authored by S. L. Seneviratne, B. C. J. De Zoysa, A. M. S. E. Senaratne, E. C. Padmasiri, and P. S. H. Pallemulla. Sub Lieutenant SH Madanayeka (NRE 4302), a Mechanical Engineering Officer Cadet, won the Sword of Honour for the best All-Round Performance of Intake 36. Mr. LTUD Wickramathunga (D/ENG/19/0001) won the Trophy for the best student presentation in Mechatronic Engineering awarded by KDU. Mr. WRU Fernando (D/ENG/19/0068) won the Trophy for the best student in Mechanical Engineering awarded by KDU.

KDU Co-hosts ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF-HDUCIM) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 25th ASEAN Regional Forum – Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (ARF-HDUCIM) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 31st July to 3rd August. The event was co-hosted by the National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM) and KDU for the first time. The ARF was held under the theme of 'Defence Education Diplomacy for Sustainable Peace & Security'. Delegates from 22 Countries representing ASEAN and ASEAN Observer nations took part in the event with special participation from Sri Lanka and Pakistan.



Representing Sri Lanka, Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe USP USACGSC, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence & Administration)- KDU and Dr Harinda Vidanage, Director International Relations & Director Centre for Strategic Assessment- KDU attended the forum. Dr Harinda Vidanage asserted how KDU has evolved as a transformative institution led by its Vice Chancellor Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil who envisioned building a visionary civil military relationship that contributes to long lasting peace and provides a role model of a university that is well suited to address the challenges of a post conflict society. The KDU delegation held bilateral meetings with representatives from India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Cambodia, fostering cooperation and growth through deepened relationships.

Brigadier Wickramasinghe chaired the third session of the forum and made the ceremonial address taking over the responsibility of hosting the 26th ARF in Sri Lanka and highlighted the achievements of KDU and Sri Lanka's commitment to uphold the values that the ASEAN Regional Forum entails.



Second International Research Conference of the Faculty of Technology



The Faculty of Technology successfully concludes its second research conference under the theme, **“Achieving Resilience through Digitalization, Sustainability and Sectoral Transformation”** held on 07th & 08th September 2023.

Prof. Hasin Anupama Azhari from the Centre of Biomedical Science and Engineering, Bangladesh, participated as a plenary speaker and shared her knowledge and experience. She also discussed with the dean and the faculty staff about the potential to

initiate new international research collaborations with Bangladesh, which was a favorable move for the faculty to enhance future research endeavors.

The technical session provided a platform to motivate new researchers to exchange and enhance knowledge. Dr EKDHD Siriwardana was awarded the Best Paper Award from Technical Session, and Ms. WAG Thilini was awarded the Best Poster award, which served as a testament to the dedication and innovative spirit of the researchers.

Symposium for International Building Economics and Research (SIBER 2023)

The Symposium for International Building Economics and Research (SIBER 2023), organized by the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors - UAE branch (AIQS-UAE) and spearheaded by Ajantha Premarathna, President of the International Chapter (Region-2) of AIQS, in partnership with General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka (KDU), was held on 21st October 2023, at the Pullman Dubai Creek City Centre Hotel and Residences in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The symposium, held under the theme **“Built Environment for Macroeconomics,”** was chaired by Dr. AH Lakmal, Dean of the Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences at KDU.



14th Asian Criminology Conference

The 14th Asian Criminology Conference, a collaborative effort between the Asian Criminological Society and the Faculty of Criminal Justice of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), was conducted at the KDU premises from October 27th to 29th 2023. The timely topic **“Crime and Criminal Justice: Sustainable Development, Peace, and Security in Asia,”** was the main theme of the conference. The opening session was graced by two world renowned personnel in criminology and criminal justice, distinguished

Emeritus Prof. John Braitweight from the National University of Australia and His Excellency Mohan Peiris, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, as keynote speakers.

The event also had the honour of hosting the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of KDU, along with other distinguished guests and invitees in the field of Criminal Justice. The conference concluded on 29th October 2023, and the closing ceremony was graced by Hon. Jayantha Jayasooriya, Chief Justice of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, as the Chief Guest. General G. D. H. Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, Secretary Ministry of Defence- Sri Lanka and the Vice Chancellor of KDU and other distinguished invitees from the sector were also present.

During the closing ceremony the Philippine representative announced the upcoming ACS Conference in 2024 at Manila, Philippine, and Deshabandu Professor MADSJS Niriella, Conference Chair, ACS Vice President, Dean of the Faculty of Criminal Justice- KDU delivered the vote of thanks.



Faculty Sessions of the 16th International Research Conference



The Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences successfully hosted the second consecutive International Research Conference (KDU IRC) at Southern Campus. The event saw the participation of esteemed academics and dignitaries from various national universities and professional institutions. Professor Panos Psimoulis, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Nottingham, UK, presided over the plenary session virtually. Meanwhile, Professor Chandana Jayalath, Professor of Quantity Surveying at the University of Vocational Technology, chaired the session in person. Professors STWS Yapa, Amila Ratnayake, and Jagath Munasinghe contributed invaluable knowledge as plenary speakers during the conference.

Plenary and Technical Sessions on Law 16th KDU International Research Conference (KDU-IRC 2023)

GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY
16th INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE
LAW
Plenary Session
Law as a Facilitator: Growth, Equity and Governance

CHAIR	SPEAKERS	
 His Lordship Jayantha Jayasuriya PC Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Sri Lanka	 Hon. Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakse PC, M.P. Minister of Justice	 Hon. Mohamad Ali Sabry PC, M.P. Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Ms. BKM Jayasekara Senior Lecturer	 Hon. Dr. Susil Premajayantha AAL, M.P. Minister of Education	 Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva AAL, MP Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation
 Ms. Mithila Jayathilaka Assistant Lecturer	 Mr. Palitha Kumarasinghe PC Chairman, Standing Committee on Legal Studies, UGC	 Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne AAL President, Bar Association of Sri Lanka

07 SEPTEMBER 2023,
1400 HRS - 1700HRS
AUDITORIUM,
FACULTY OF
GRADUATE STUDIES
KDU

KDU IRC 2023
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Plenary Session on Law of the 16th International Research Conference of KDU was held under the theme '**Law as a Facilitator: Growth, Equity and Governance**' on 07th September 2023, chaired by His Lordship Jayantha Jayasuriya PC, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

Speakers were Minister of Education Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamad Ali Sabry, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation Nimal Siripala De Silva, Minister of Justice Wijeyadasa Rajapakse, PC – Novel Trends in Legal Education and the Role of Law Schools Palitha Kumarasinghe and PC– Role of Law and Lawyer in the Contemporary Society Kaushalya Nawaratne.

The speeches were followed by the release of the KDU Law Journal (Vol 3, Issue II) in both electronic and print forms.

Pre-conference Workshop on Dry Needling Level 01

The Department of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences conducted a Pre-conference Workshop on "**Dry Needling Level 01**" in line with the International Research Conference 2023 on 17th August 2023 at the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Werahara. The resource person of the session was Mr Vijayakumar Thayumanavan, the Chief Physiotherapist & Founder of VIGOR; physiotherapy rehabilitation and wellness centre with over 30 participants.

SHORT COURSES

Successful conclusion of certificate course in Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Treatment Plants by KDU and NWSDB



The Certificate Course in “**Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Treatment Plants**,” a joint initiative by KDU and the NWSDB, concluded its second round of delivery on 06th August 2023. This five-week programme equips participants with essential knowledge and skills in wastewater treatment, including operation, troubleshooting, maintenance, performance evaluation, and occupational health and safety. Delivered by experts from both academia and industry, the course has proven valuable for enhancing the expertise of individuals working in the field of water and sanitation.

Pre-sessional English language and research methodology programme 2023 for DSCSC and LSC students

The Department of Languages and the Department of Strategic Studies of KDU conducted the Pre-LSC (Course No.10) from 16th October 2023 to 30th November 2023. This programme aimed to equip military officers with academic English and research skills essential for their Master’s degree studies. The closing ceremony was held on 7th December 2023. Brigadier DCA Wickramasingha- Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence & Administration), honoured the event as the Chief Guest, and Major Wimansa Abeywickrama- Head of the Department of Languages, Dr. Sanath De Silva- Head of the Department of Strategic Studies and Lieutenant Colonel Janaka Manikachchi and Ms. Chamila Kothalawala- course coordinators, lecturers from both departments, and the directing staff from Defence Services Command and Staff College and Logistics School participated in the event.

Certificate award ceremony of Diploma in Information Technology Course No.21



General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) offers nearly 50 undergraduate degree programmes across its eleven faculties. Additionally, the Centre for IT Support & Development Services of KDU conducts certificate-level and diploma-level IT courses to enhance computer literacy among Officers and Other Rankers in Tri-Services, and civilians.

The certificate award ceremony for Diploma in Information Technology Course No. 21, organized by the Centre for IT Support & Development Services of KDU, took place on 10th November 2023 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies KDU.

Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe USP USACGSC- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Defence & Administration) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, and awarded certificates to the thirty-two students who had successfully completed the programme. Colonel MTC De Silva psc- the Director of the Centre for IT Support & Development Services was also present at the ceremony.



Diploma awarding ceremony Naval Nurses' Training School

The diploma awarding ceremony of NNTS - Welisara was held on 20th July 2023. Sixty-nine (69) dedicated and skilled nurses from 2018 and 2019 batches proudly received their certificates marking the successful completion of their 2-year nursing diploma course.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of Vice Chancellor of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Major General Milinda Peiris. The event was also attended by the Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Navy, Rear Admiral Jayantha Kularatne.



Certificate award ceremony - CTHE Programme XI



The certificate awarding ceremony of the Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education Programme 2022/2023 (CTHE Programme XI) was held on 24th November 2023 at the Staff Development Centre of KDU. Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, VSV, USP, psc- the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University graced the event as the Chief Guest. Mr. KAP Malake received the best performance award in CTHE Programme XI.

Blood donation campaign organized by University Hospital, KDU

On 21st December 2023, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital (UH-KDU) organized its third blood donation campaign, themed **“Love, Togetherness, and Unity,”** at the hospital premises. The event received guidance and support from key personnel including Brigadier (Dr) PS Tillakaratne, Director Medical Services- UH-KDU, Surgeon Captain HMAAS Herath, Deputy Director Medical Services- UH-KDU, Brigadier LWSR Wettasinghe, Director Administration- UH-KDU, and Dr. T I Vithanawasam, Consultant Transfusion Physician- UH-KDU. Hospital staff and members of the civil community enthusiastically participated as donors, contributing to the success of the event.



**CSR
Projects**



Arduino workshop for school children

IMechE Student Chapter organized a Career Guidance and Arduino Workshop at Hanwella Rajasinghe Central College on 26th October, 2023.



Leadership training programme for students of Piliyandala Primary School



A leadership training programme was conducted for 102 school prefects of the primary school, Piliyandala on 20th October, 2023 at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on the request of the principal and staff of the school.

The programme was conducted by Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies of KDU under the guidance of the Dean, Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies. The workshop included a visit to the museum, leadership training, impromptu acts, physical exercises, lectures, discussions, and other group training activities.



KDU and Vineyard Education to partner for joint ventures

In an effort to promote awareness and engagement regarding the use of Information Technology to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a workshop was conducted for Grade 10 students of H/Sooriyawewa National School on 30th November 2023, at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Southern Campus. This initiative was headed by the Department of



Information Technology as part of their Community Social Responsibility Projects. The workshop titled **“Bridging the Digital Divide for Sustainable Development”** aimed to harness the potential of IT literacy in fostering socio-economic progress aligned with the United Nations’ SDGs. Mr. WMSRB Wijayarathna, Mr. WAAM Wanniarachchi, Mr. HAN Ishara, and Ms. Dinoo Gunasekara conducted the workshop.

Empowering minds and shaping futures: A CSR Project at Kandawala Maha Vidyalaya by DBA Intake 40



A group of 40 undergraduates pursuing degrees in Data Science and Business Analytics at the Faculty of Computing, KDU embarked on a transformative community project. This initiative took place on 10th August 2023, at Kandawala Maha Vidyalaya with the primary goal of personality enhancement of 76 students from grades 9 to 12 while providing them with valuable insights into future career opportunities. Dr. S. Adihetty's sponsorship and supervision played a pivotal role in making this project a resounding success. The project featured a diverse array of activities, including career awareness sessions, leadership and personality development exercises, a technological awareness programme, mathematics-related educational sessions, motivational talks, and entertaining activities.

The success of this CSR project would not have been possible without the invaluable support of the principal and dedicated teachers at Kandawala Maha Vidyalaya. Their guidance and cooperation were instrumental for the seamless execution of the project. This collaboration underscored the importance of bridging the gap between academia and the community, highlighting the potential for meaningful contributions by students.

SIHINA 2023: A CSR Project to commemorate world radiography day by Intake 37 Undergraduates of Department of Radiography & Radiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences



The 08th edition of the **“Sihina”** project, initiated by Intake 30, was carried out by undergraduates of Intake 37 of Department of Radiography and Radiotherapy. This year's project took place at the Rehabilitation Home for Differently-abled Children in Ambanpitiya, Kegalle, where 40 individuals with various disabilities reside. On 24th September 2023, after extensive planning and hard work, the students successfully donated

essential items, including a special bed for children with seizures, wheelchairs, and other necessities. Additionally, they renovated a classroom building by cleaning, repairing, wiring, painting, and installing a name board.

Beach clean-up initiative by the Technowiz Club of the Faculty of Technology

The Technowiz Club of the Faculty of Technology organized a beach clean-up event along the stunning coastal beach of Mount Lavinia. Technowiz Club is the largest student club of the Faculty of Technology, comprising students from all its degree programmes.

Driven by their commitment to combat pollution, students worked tirelessly to remove the harmful debris that poses a threat to the health of both humans and marine life. Their effort resulted in the collection of hundreds of pounds of discarded garbage. This commendable endeavour reflected their unwavering devotion to the preservation of our precious planet.



Faculty of Technology Students win “ච්ඡේදන” The Art Competition

Mr. G.L.T.S Galabada, a student of the Faculty of Technology's intake 40, CST degree programme won the first place in the “ච්ඡේදන” Art Competition organized by the Faculty of Engineering Art Circle held on 02nd & 03rd August 2023. His achievement is a testament to the Faculty of Technology's conducive environment, which encourages students to pursue their passions alongside their academic studies.

KDU PUBLICATIONS

KDU Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies (KJMS)

The latest publication of the KDU Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies (KJMS), Volume 5(2), was released on 28th November 2023. It is indexed in databases such as Sri Lanka Journal online (SLJOL) and Google Scholar. The publication can be downloaded from the provided links.

<https://kjms.sljol.info/https://kdu.ac.lk/kjms/pdf/KDU-Journal-of-Multidisciplinary-studies-KJMS-Volume-5-Issue-02.pdf>

Launching of International Journal of Research in Computing (IJRC)

The first issue of the second volume of the International Journal of Research in Computing (IJRC), published by the Faculty of Computing (FOC) of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), was presented to the former Vice Chancellor of KDU, Major General MP Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil, by the Dean of the Faculty of Computing, Dr. ADAI Gunasekara. The Editor in Chief of IJRC, Dr. B Hettige, also attended the event.

The IJRC is a bi-annual publication that disseminates the latest knowledge in the Computing domain, authored by local and international researchers. It is blindly reviewed by three expert reviewers, with the best quality papers selected based on editorial board recommendations, fostering a sustainable research culture.

Launch of the KDU Journal of Built Environment (KDU JBE) and the Industrial Magazine on Quality

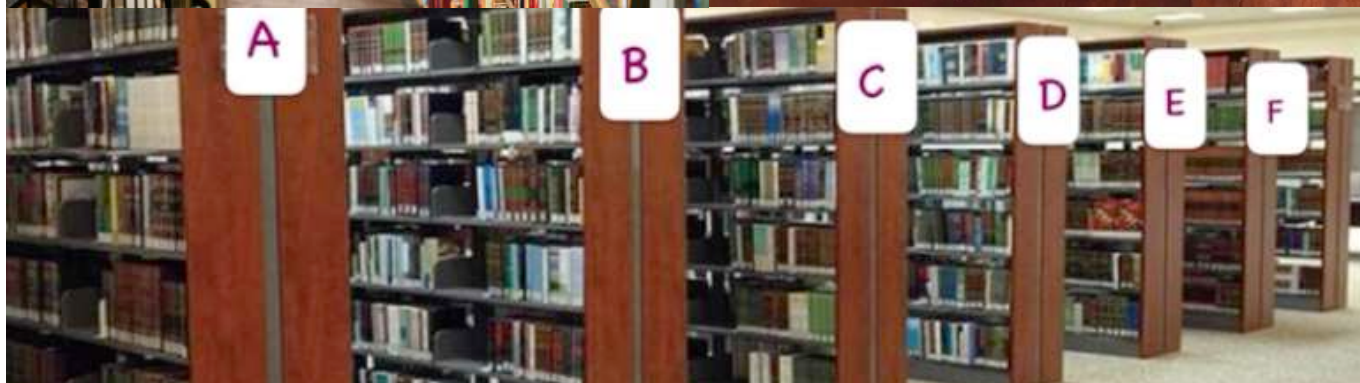
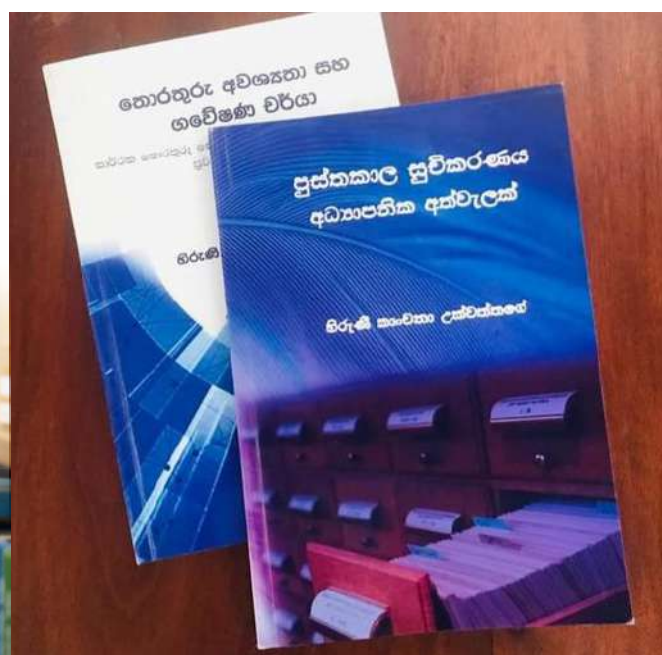


The KDU Journal of Built Environment (KDU JBE) and the Industrial Quality Magazine were launched on 28th July 2023, marking a significant milestone in the Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences' history. KDU JBE is an international peer-reviewed open access journal focused on high-quality research in Architecture, Quantity Surveying, and Surveying Sciences. Several dignitaries, including Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka, Mrs. Indika Wijegunawardhana, Additional Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs of Sri Lanka, Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Major General Milinda Peiris, Rector of KDU Southern campus, and military staff attended the event.

KDU STAFF PUBLICATIONS

Books on Library & Information Science

Ms. Hiruni Kanchana, Senior Assistant Librarian, has published two Library & Information Science subject books with Suriya Publishers: *Information Needs and Seeking Behaviors: Identifying Elements, Characteristics and Library Catalogue: An Educational Guide*.



COURTESY VISITS

The visit of the Chief of Staff to the President and National Security Advisor to KDU



Honourable Sagala Rathnayaka, the Chief of Staff and National Security Advisor to the President made an official visit to General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on 18th August 2023. Starting the visit to KDU, Honourable Sagala Rathnayaka paid his homage to the newly built War Hero's Monument by offering flowers. During his visit, he inspected the ongoing progress of the proposed Auditorium Construction in the Kandawala premises, the area designated for Regional Centre for Maritime Studies, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Computing, and Faculty of Medicine. Further he graced the sentimental opening of the KDU Care Lab.

Honourable Sagala Rathnayaka met the Vice Chancellor of KDU, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc Mphil at the Vice Chancellor's Office and participated in a briefing on present status of KDU which was presented by Brigadier Chinthaka Wickramasinghe USP USACGSC, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence and Administration). In addition, he visited the KDU Museum which is the residence of Late Prime Minister General Sir John Kotelawala and symbolized his visit to KDU by signing the visitor's book. He also visited UHKDU.

Commander of the Air Force visits KDU

Air Marshal RAUP Rajapaksa RSP and two Bars, VSV, USP, MSc (MOA) USA, MSc (Def Stu) in Mgt, MA in IS&S (UK), BSc (Def Stu), MIM (SL), AMIE (SL), rcds, psc, the newly appointed Commander of the Air Force and the first Air Force officer to graduate from KDU, made his first official visit to General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on 31st July 2023. He was appointed as the 19th Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, attaining the three-star rank of Air Marshal.



Visit of the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr Ramesh Pathirana and State Minister of Defence, Hon. Pramitha Bandara Thennakoon



Hon. Dr. Ramesh Pathirana- Minister of Health and Hon. Pramitha Bandara Thennakoon- State Minister of Defence made an official visit to the University Hospital of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (UHKDU). They engaged in discussions with Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara VSV USP psc MMaritimePol BSc (DS), the Vice Chancellor of KDU, and the hospital management committee to address improvement and development plans for the UHKDU.

General GDH Kamal Gunaratne (Retd), Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Dr. P.G Maheepala, Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Dr. Asela Gunawardana, Director General of Health Services, Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, Vice Chancellor of KDU, Dr. B Jayan Mendis, Executive Director, Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe USP USACGSC, Deputy Vice Chancellor of KDU (Defence & Administration), Mr. Harsha Withanaarachchi, Senior Assistant Secretary at Ministry of Defence, Brigadier (Dr) PS Thilakaratne, Director Medical Service, and Brigadier LWSR Wettasinghe, Director Administration, also participated in the event.



Delegation from Sichuan University visits Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies KDU

A delegation from the Institute of South Asian Studies, Sichuan University (ISAS) visited the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies on 12th July 2023 for a knowledge sharing session. Associate Professors Zeng Xiangyu and Liu Siwei, and Lecturers Gao Liang and Chen Xixi, participated in the discussion together with six postgraduate students. Colonel Pradeep Ratnayake RSP USP psc, Dean- Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies welcomed the delegation. Dr. Sanath de Silva, HoD- Department of Strategic Studies, Lieutenant Colonel Janaka Manikachchi, Research Coordinator, Major Asanka Egalla, Research Officer and Mr. Pradeep Ranaweera participated in the event representing KDU. Six postgraduate students of MSc in Defence and Strategic Studies from KDU also participated in this discussion.

During the discussion, matters pertaining to the strategic atmosphere of South Asia and the Indian Ocean were tabled, and the delegation showed their interest in conducting joint research and publications. The final session of the discussion was an exchange of academic knowledge where the



students expressed their ideas on the Sri Lankan security environment, China as an economic model, and the foreign policy of Sri Lanka.



AIT delegation's visit to KDU



Delegates from the Asian Institution of Technology (AIT), including Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Executive Director of the Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs, Prof. Sangam Shrestha, Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology (SET), and Prof. Abdul Salam, Dean of the School of Environment Resources and Development (SERD) visited KDU on 5th April 2024. Prof. KAS Dhammika and Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe highlighted the importance of effectively implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), marking a pivotal moment in the collaboration.

Faculty of Technology collaborates with South Asia Centre for Medical Physics & Cancer Research

Faculty of Technology, KDU, has formed a strategic partnership with the South Asia Centre for Medical Physics and Cancer Research (SCMPCR) to enhance medical physics and technology education in Sri Lanka. The partnership aims to elevate the quality of education and research at both institutions and contribute to the development of skilled manpower in medical physics.

Commandant of SLMA visits KDU

Brigadier MTI Mahalekam WWV RWP RSP USP ndu psc, the new Commandant of the Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA), Diyathalawa paid his first official visit to General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on 03rd August 2023. Brigadier MTI Mahalekam is the 37th Commandant of SLMA, and he received a warm welcome from the former Vice Chancellor of KDU, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil.



CEO of UUDS Aero DWC visits KDU



The CEO of UUDS Aero DWC at Dubai, Mr. Manoj Bogoda, visited KDU on December 18 2023. During his visit, discussions with key stakeholders including the Vice Chancellor and lecturers from the Department of Aeronautical Engineering were held with the aim of exploring collaborations between UUDS Aero DWC and KDU. The visit involved a tour of Aeronautical Engineering Laboratory facilities, offering insights into KDU's aviation and aerospace programmes. This interaction fostered stronger ties between UUDS Aero DWC and KDU, facilitating the exchange of industry perspectives and opportunities for mutual growth and development.

FICB –Faculty of Computing



The Faculty Industry Consultative Board (FICB) meeting of the Faculty of Computing, held on 22nd September 2023, marked a significant milestone in the faculty's commitment to academic excellence. The FICB is a quadrennial event that brings together academic experts and industry leaders to collaboratively shape the future of all degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Computing.

This occasion was graced by distinguished attendees, including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof. KAS Dammika, the Rector-Southern Campus Major General LCR Jayasuriya RSP ndc psc, and the Dean

of the Faculty, Dr. ADAI Gunasekara. The Dean extended a warm welcome to all attendees, including representatives from esteemed academic institutions such as the University of Moratuwa, the University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, UCSC, the Open University of Sri Lanka, and the University of Kelaniya. The event also brought in leaders from renowned organizations such as CodeGen, IFS, Virtusa, Wiley Global Technology, Nagarro, Huawei Technologies, Rizen Technologies, and many more. Their insights and expertise play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between academia and industry.

DICBs

The Department Industry Consultative Board (DICB) meetings were held to revise the curricula of the degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Technology.

The objectives of these DICB meetings were to seek feedback from industry experts and academicians on the BET(Hons) in Construction Technology (CST), Building Services Technology (BST), Biomedical Instrumentation Technology (BMT) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) curricula and to reaffirm that the current curricula can meet the future requirements of the industry and the country. Distinguished personnel representing the tri-forces of Sri Lanka, experts from industry and academic experts from other universities were in attendance.



Commemorating 43rd death anniversary of Late General Sir John Kotelawala



In commemoration of the 43rd Death Anniversary of the late General Sir John Kotelawala and the celebration of the 43rd Anniversary of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, an all- night Pirith Chanting Ceremony took place at the university premises on 12th October 2023. This was followed by an alms giving to the Maha Sangha on 13th October 2023 to invoke blessings upon all personnel of the university, including tri-forces officers, academic staff, Officer Cadets and Day Scholars, non-academic Staff, civil staff, and their families.

Among the attendees were Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, Vice Chancellor of KDU; Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence & Administration); Air Commodore Rajinith Jayawardena, Rector of Metropolitan Campus KDU; and Commodore Ruwan Rupasena,

Rector of Kurunegala Campus KDU along with academic and administrative staff, Officer Cadets and Day Scholars, and their families.



CADETS' EVENTS

Dean-Faculty of Defence and Strategic studies addresses Cadet Government

The Dean of Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, Colonel RKARP Rathnayake RSP USP psc addressed the newly appointed Cadet Government 2023 on 10th July 2023 at the FDSS auditorium. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of shouldering the responsibilities and maintaining the discipline of Officer Cadets and Day Scholars of KDU. Further, he emphasized on the importance of the new concept of functioning the Cadet Government by appointing a faculty-based Cadet Government. In addition, the letters of job description of Cadet Government holders were issued to all members of the newly appointed Cadet Government.



Lieutenant Colonel KTDS Kalansooriya USP psc, the deputy Dean of Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies and the OIC of Cadet Government, Squadron Commanders, and Troop Commanders of Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies along with Cadet Government holders were present at the address.

Squadron Commander's Mess Night- Intake 39



The First Dinner Night of Intake 39 of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was held at the Officer Cadets' Mess on 21st July 2023. The Squadron Commander of Intake 39, Lieutenant Commander SGM Madhuwantha graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In addition, Secretary of the Cadets' Mess, Major BGSP Samarasinghe Isc, all troop commanders, University Under Officer along with senior Officer Cadets of Intakes 37 and 38, and 220 Officer Cadets from Intake 39 participated in the memorable event.



The Dinner Night was organized under the guidance and supervision of the Dean of the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, the Squadron Commander of Intake 39, and Troop Commanders.

VC's Dinner Night- MBBS Cadets - Intake 34



The night of September 18 2023, marked a significant event at KDU.

The Cadets' Mess was abuzz with excitement as 87 participants, including 47 Officer Cadets, gathered to celebrate the successful completion of three-month Advanced Military Training. The Vice Chancellor of KDU



Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara VSV, USP, psc, MMaritimePol, BSc (DS) graced the Dinner Night as the Chief Guest.

“Intake 34 MBBS VC’s Dinner Night” was a memorable evening filled with pride, recognition, and anticipation of what lies ahead. It celebrated the accomplishments of Officer Cadets and their dedication to serving the nation. KDU looks forward to witnessing the continued success of these promising individuals in the years to come.

Officers’ Training Day 2023 at KDU

The Officers’ Training Day of the 3rd quarter of 2023, organized by the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, aiming to refresh and enhance the expertise of the military officers working in KDU, was successfully held on 04th November 2023 at the main auditorium of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The morning session commenced with a presentation on ‘What You think, You Become’ by Capt Sumedha Mirihana (Retd), Founder and Director of Molon



Labe Training & Consultancy. A brainstorming session on ‘Capacity Building’ was conducted by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Defence & Admin), Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe USP USACGSC. Thereafter, Dr Pathmakumara Jayasinghe, a Senior Lecturer from the Department of Geography delivered a lecture on the introduction to ‘**Climate Change and Future Trends**’ followed by a friendly basketball encounter for all Officers. Concluding the training day, the Dinners Club was held at Officers’ Mess under the theme “**Impact of nontraditional threats and responding to them positively – Role of Military**”, and Dr Dayani Panagoda, an international consultant and development practitioner was the guest speaker.

Last Respect to the 8th Commandant of KDA



Air Vice Marshal Upali Wanasinghe (Retd) USP psc BSc (Cey) of Sri Lanka Air Force Technical Engineering and the 8th Commandant of KDA, who did great service to KDA as the Commandant from 8th February 1994 to 7th May 1996, passed away on 3rd August 2023 at the age of 83 years.

Dean of the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, Colonel Pradeep Ratnayake RSP USP psc, and the Officers and Officer Cadets of FDSS, paid their last respect to him on 5th August 2023 at the funeral.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF STAFF

Conference Chair for National IT Conference Sri Lanka 2023

Dr. (Mrs) Nirosha Wedasinghe of the Department of Information Technology was nominated as the National IT Conference Chair of Sri Lanka organized by the Government in collaboration with other industry partners of Sri Lanka.

Special Panel Speaker at the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum 2023

Dr. (Mrs) Nirosha Wedasinghe of the Department of Information Technology was nominated as a special panel speaker in the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum 2023.

Executive Board Membership at Computer Society of Sri Lanka and Publication Secretary

Dr. Nirosha Wedasinghe, a Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Computing has been appointed as an executive board member of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka and publication secretary.

Representing the Panel of Judges at the IET YP Technical Conference 2023

Dr. BVKI Vidanage of the Department of Computer Science, was a member of the judge panel at the IET YP Technical Conference 2023.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Postgraduate Qualifications



- Dr. DU Vidanagama attached to the Department of Information Technology, earned her PhD from Department of Computational Mathematics, University of Moratuwa.



- Major (Dr.) RMM Pradeep attached to the Department of Information Technology, earned his PhD in Computing from General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on 4th October 2023.



- Ms. GAD Ganepola attached to the Department of Information Technology, earned her Master of Science (MSc) in Information Technology from University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in 2023.

SPORTS

Outstanding performance by IDNSB Gunawardhana of KDU at Asian Classic Powerlifting Championship - 2023

IDNSB Gunawardhana, a Day Scholar from the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (FAHS) at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, represented Sri Lanka at the Asian Classic Powerlifting Championship 2023 in Malaysia from December 10-18. Competing in the junior women - 84kg weight category, Gunawardhana secured an impressive overall 3rd place despite fierce competition, with notable achievements in individual categories: 3rd place in Squat (100kg), 3rd place in Bench Press (57.5kg), and 2nd place in Deadlift (142kg). Her performance underscores the excellence of Sri Lankan athletes in



international tournaments. Gunawardhana's success contributes to Sri Lanka's reputation in powerlifting and serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes, showcasing the nation's sporting talent and potential.

Her accomplishment reflects both personal dedication and national pride, highlighting the relentless pursuit of excellence within the sporting community at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and throughout Sri Lanka.



The Inter-Faculty Athletic Meet 2023



The Annual Inter-Faculty Athletic Meet of KDU – 2023 took place at Diyagama Mahinda Rajapakshe Stadium on July 14 and 15 2023. Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe USP USACGSC, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence & Administration) and President of the Sports Council of KDU, ceremonially opened the event. More than 250 athletes from ten faculties of KDU and other universities participated. The meet, after a three-year lapse, witnessed remarkable performances with record-setting feats by undergraduates. Notable achievements included new records set by Day Scholar N Wedagama in Javelin (Female) from the Faculty of Law and Day Scholar IDSLD Gunawardane in Shotput (Female) from the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

The closing ceremony was graced by Major General MP Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil, the Vice Chancellor of KDU, as the Chief Guest, along with other dignitaries, faculty members, and participants. Awards were presented to recognize outstanding individual and faculty performances at the event by the Chief Guest.

Cricket encounter between Faculty of Law, KDU Vs Sri Lanka Law College

The first ever Cricket Encounter between the Faculty of Law, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and the Sri Lanka Law College was held on 2nd August 2023. The Chief Guest, Major General Milinda Peiris, the former Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) graced the occasion along with the Principal of the Sri Lanka Law College, Dr. Athula Pathinayake. The match featured both women and men cricket matches, and in the men's match, KDU Law Faculty emerged victorious over the Sri Lanka Law College, scoring 142 runs against the opponent's 141 runs. Yukthi Napagoda from Law Faculty of KDU was awarded the Man of the Match for his exceptional display of talent.



5 Mile Run – 2023 Intake 40 (Officer Cadets)

The Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies (FDSS) organized and conducted the annual 5 mile run for the Officer Cadets of Intake 40 on 19th August 2023. A total of 234 Officer Cadets along with Dean of FDSS, Colonel RKARP Rathnayake RSP USP psc, the Deputy Dean of FDSS, Lieutenant Colonel KTDS Kalansooriya USP psc, the Squadron Commander and the Troop Commanders of Intake 40 as well as Officers and other ranks instructors of FDSS took part in this event.



'Rolling Beach 2023' Officer Cadet Beach March



The Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies (FDSS) organized and conducted the annual 13 km Beach March from Wadduwa to Panadura, the **'Rolling Beach 2023'** for the Officer Cadets of Intake 40 on 16th September 2023. A total of 270 Officer Cadets including 35 Officer Cadets from Intake 38 and 01 Officer Cadet from Intake 39 along with Dean of FDSS, the Deputy Dean of FDSS, the Squadron Commander of Intake 40, 10 other Officers and 60 other ranks instructors of FDSS took part in this event.

Annual Rector's Challenge Trophy (RCT)



The annual Rector's Challenge Trophy (RCT), an inter-intake football extravaganza, took place on 16th and 17th September 2023. Organized by undergraduates from Intake 38 Quantity Surveying, this marked the fifth RCT since its inception in 2017. The event featured an impressive lineup of food stalls, a live concert, and a DJ night, promising a seamless blend of sports and entertainment. Major General LCR Jayasooriya RSP ndc psc, the Rector of the Southern Campus, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, along with the Principal of Sooriyawewa National School.

"Colours Nite – 2022" of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University



KDU hosted its "Colours Night – 2022" on December 12 2023, at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The event celebrated the achievements of 223 KDU sportsmen and sportswomen for their outstanding performance in sports in 2022. General SHS Kottegoda (Retd), the Chancellor of KDU presided over the event as the Chief Guest. Notable attendees included high-ranking university officials, such as Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, Vice Chancellor of KDU, and Brigadier

DCA Wickramasinghe, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence & Administration). This ceremony highlighted the university's commitment to recognizing and fostering sporting excellence among its students and faculty.

KDU Colours for 2022 were awarded for 15 sports events, including athletics, swimming, power lifting, hockey, table tennis, rowing, huru, cricket, netball, boxing, soccer, karate, chess, handball, and squash. Day Scholar GEV De Silva won the title Best Sportsman, while other sports personnel won the titles the Fittest Cadet (Female) DJAMD Anuththara; Fittest Swimmer (Male) SKV Hatharasinghe; Fittest Officer Cadet

(Male) Cadet Lance Corporal RMPB Rathnayaka; Fittest Swimmer (Female) RD Jothirathna Vice Chancellor's Honours; and Fittest Swimmer (Male) KKSM Kumarasiri and Officer Cadet GDP Jayathunga.

The event celebrated the dedication of military and civilian undergraduates to KDU's sports culture, recognizing their skills and coaches' contributions, and promoting a collective effort towards higher achievement.



Inter-University Sports

Participation of KDU at the Extravaganza and NSBM U Sports Festival 2023



A contingent of students from KDU participated in the Extravaganza and NSBM U Sports inter-University Sports festival in September and October 2023. KDU secured the following titles and achievements during the sports festival.

KDU Emerged Champions in the Naval and Maritime Academy Rugby Championship – 2023

Rugby championship – 2023 organized by Sri Lanka Naval and Maritime Academy was held on 4th November 2023 at NMA Rugby grounds, Eastern Naval Command. NMA and KDU teams fought to win the 7s Rugby at the naval fortress, and after a fierce competition, the KDU Team won a 05 – 00 victory.

FIELD VISITS

Field Visits of Faculty of Engineering



- Field visit to the School of Artillery, Minneriya on 11th September 2023 for Intake 38 Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering Officer Cadets of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
- Industrial visit to the Vega Innovation, Maradana on 18th September 2023 for Intake 39 Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering undergraduates of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
- Industrial visit to the Central Engineering Division - Michelin Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Ekala on 21st September 2023 for Intake 39 Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering undergraduates of

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. Industrial visit to Twinery - Discovery Labs, a section of the innovation arm of MAS Holdings, for the academic and academic support staff members of the Department of Mechanical Engineering on 22nd September 2023.

- Industrial visit to Unichela Private Limited, Panadura on 11th October 2023 for Intake 39 Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering undergraduates of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.



Team Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies visits KDU Southern Campus

Colonel RKARP Rathnayake RSP USP psc, Dean of Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, and the Officers of the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies visited KDU Southern Campus on 18th August 2023, upon an invitation from Major General LCR Jayasuriya RSP ndc psc, the Rector – KDU Southern Campus. The team from FDSS was ceremonially welcomed by the Officers of KDU Southern Campus, and during the visit, Dean – FDSS addressed the Officers and Officer Cadets of KDU Southern Campus at the Southern Campus main auditorium.



Field visit to BAFF Polymech (Pvt) Ltd.



On 3rd August 2023, a field visit was organized by the Department of Marine Engineering of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University to the BAFF Polymech (Pvt) Ltd at Koggala, a leading company in Sri Lanka creating leisure crafts and other polymer-based vessel parts. This was a great opportunity for all the Marine Engineering undergraduates and Naval Architecture undergraduates to get exposure to how sea vessels are designed and built. This visit exemplified the commitment of the Marine Engineering Department to nurturing future engineering professionals and fostering excellence in the field of marine engineering and naval architecture.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

EAGLES' NIGHT 2023



Annual Get Together of the Students and Staff of the Faculty of Law, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was held on 11th August 2023 under the theme Eagles' Night 2023. The Chief Guest of the event was Major General Milinda Peiris, Vice Chancellor of KDU. Rector of Metropolitan Campus KDU Major General Lal Gunasekara, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence and Administration) Brigadier Chinthaka Wickramasinghe and Dean of Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies Colonel Pradeep Rathnayake also graced the event.

This eve of talent is organized to strengthen the relationships among the students and staff of the Faculty while supporting them to showcase their creative abilities and talents through dancing (Ballroom, Salsa, Bachata), musical presentations, Prince and Princess Pageant etc. Best Dancing Couple was Shaveen Amarasinghe and Dinuvi Jayawardhane, and Prince and Princess of that night were Ashan De Alwis and Hiruni Basnayake.

Inter-faculty Debate Competition

FOC emerges as the First Runners-up at Debate Competition 2023



At the Inter-Faculty Debating Championship for Vice Chancellor's Trophy – 2023, the Faculty of Computing emerged as the first runners-up after a fierce competition with the Faculty of Law. The Grand Finale held on 12th October 2023, at the main auditorium of KDU was graced by Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe USP USACGSC- Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence & Administration) and the Deans of the two faculties Dr. ADAI Gunasekara and Mr. WS Wijesinghe (Faculty of Computing and Faculty of Law). The FOC team comprised of undergraduates representing Intakes 38, 39 and 40. (The team; Daham Yakandawala, Hasini Gunasekara, Sasith Bandara, Dasuni Uththara, Dinuka Wickramasinghe and Senuda Weliwatta, were guided by Ms. Dharani Abeysinghe, the lecturer-in-charge of the debate team.

Undergraduate Research Symposium of FAHS – 2023

The first Undergraduate Research Symposium of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (FAHS) was held on 19th July 2023, at the University Hospital KDU. Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil, Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, was the Chief Guest. Among other distinguished guests Prof. Ranil Jayawardena, Brigadier Chinthaka Wickramasinghe, Prof. KAS Dhammika, Surgeon Captain Dr NRP Perera, Prof. Jayantha Balawardane, Brigadier Rohan Wettasinghe, Brigadier Saman Thilakaratne, and Prof. Aindralal Balasuriya were president. The symposium marked the 10th anniversary of FAHS, providing final year students a platform to present their research findings across various disciplines with a total of 57 research presentations.



Inaugural Forum of Spatial Student Research Forum (SSRF) 2023 – Intake 37

The Department of Spatial Sciences' research unit orchestrated the inaugural **Spatial Student Research Forum (SSRF)** on 11th October 2023, at the Southern Campus Auditorium. Final-year undergraduates from Intake 37 showcased their research endeavors encompassing diverse aspects of Spatial Sciences. This event served as a pivotal opportunity for peers within the department to augment and broaden their research acumen.



Symposium of the Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences - 2023



The Student Research Symposium (SRS) of Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences was held at the Southern Campus auditorium on 27 July 2023, under the theme “**Exploring Creative and Innovative Building and Construction Technologies towards a Sustainable Built Environment**”. Dr. Malsha Mendis, a renowned figure affiliated to the Department of Design Studies at NSBM Green University as a Senior Lecturer, and an Associate Professor at the esteemed St. Petersburg University in Russia, captivated the audience as the keynote speaker of the event.

Adding further distinction to the symposium, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc Mphil honoured the occasion as the Chief Guest and Major General LCR Jayasuriya RSP ndc psc, the Rector of the Southern Campus, Dr. A.H. Lakmal, Dean FBESS, academic staff, and undergraduates also joined the event. The launch of the SRS webpage on the same day marked a milestone in fostering a vibrant research culture right from the undergraduate level.

Construction Camp 2023

The second phase of the inaugural construction camp of the Faculty of Technology commenced on 20th November 2023 for the undergraduates of the Construction Technology degree program. The second phase will be conducted as a six-day survey camp program at the KDU Southern Campus, Sooriyawewa. This hands-on learning experience is crucial in their academic journey. During this session, the students will be exposed to the Reconnaissance Survey, Topographic Survey, and Setting Out.





The July Ball 2023

A Night of Colourful Celebration

The Annual July Ball of KDU was held at the Eagles Lakeside Banquet & Convention Hall in Aththidiya on 26th July 2023. It was a night of colourful celebration and joy for Officer Cadets, Day Scholars, Staff, Officers, and their families. The July Ball 2023 was graced by Lieutenant General Vikum Liyanage RWP RSP USP, the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, as the Chief Guest. The occasion was attended by Vice Admiral UVMP Perera, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, and Air Marshal RAUP Rajapaksa, Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, and the Rector Metropolitan Campus -KDU, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of KDU, Deans of faculties, Directors, Senior Administrative staff, and other distinguished guests. The night showcased thrilling performances including Cha Cha, Zumba, and joyful musical acts, bringing students and officers together. Nearly 500 couples of students from Intake 39 took part in the event. The Best couple of Cha Cha dance; Dr. Thamarasi Senaratne and Wing Commander (Dr) Sasiru Madurawala, the best couple of Jive dance; Officer Cadet Mihiraj and Day Scholar Nethmi, the best couple of Club dance: Day Scholar Lakshan and Day Scholar Kihansa, the best couple of Free style dance: Mr. Senal and Ms. Ruchitha, the best couple of Baila dance: Day Scholar Geethma and Day Scholar Kaushani, King and Queen of Intake 39: Officer Cadet Visal Imsara (King) and Day Scholar Nannayakkara (Queen).



CAD EAGER 2023



Students from Intake 37, MSM Marshad (Mechatronic Engineering) and DDNL Daluwatte (Mechanical Engineering) won the 3rd Place under University Category at the CAD EAGER 2023 Competition at TECHNO Exhibition organized by the IESL. The University Category 6th Place at the CAD EAGER 2023 Competition was won by students from Intake 37 Mechanical Engineering, APDV Jayathilake and BRPDA Boraluwa. Merit award at the Most Outstanding Undergraduate Energy Research 2023 was won by WRU Fernando, a Day Scholar of Intake 36 from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

PHARMAKON 2023: A guest lecture on The Impact of Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Advancing Pharmacy Education



Under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor of KDU Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara VSV USP psc and the Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Surgeon Captain Ranga Perera, the undergraduates of Intake 39 Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, General sir John Kotelawela Defence University organized **“PHARMAKON 2023”** on Monday 25 September 2023 at the University Hospital Auditorium, KDU. The annual event was organized for the 2nd time by the Department of Pharmacy with approximately 300 participants including all the pharmacy undergraduates at General Sir John Kotelawela Defence University and the pharmacy undergraduates from other universities in Sri Lanka. The Director administration of University Hospital Brigadier LWSR Weththasinghe graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The distinguished speaker Professor AP de Silva from the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland delivered a lecture titled **“From chemistry to medical diagnostics and information processing”**.

EXHIBITIONS

Robotics Showdown Competition

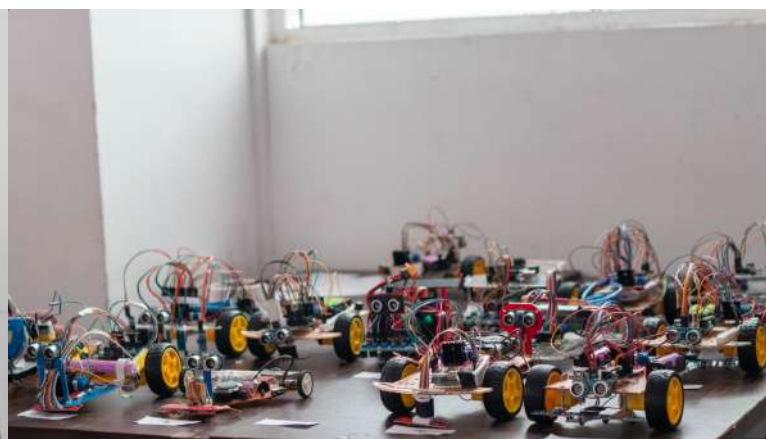
IMechE Student Chapter and ERIC-KDU organized a four-day Intra-university Robotics Showdown Competition on 20th July 2023.

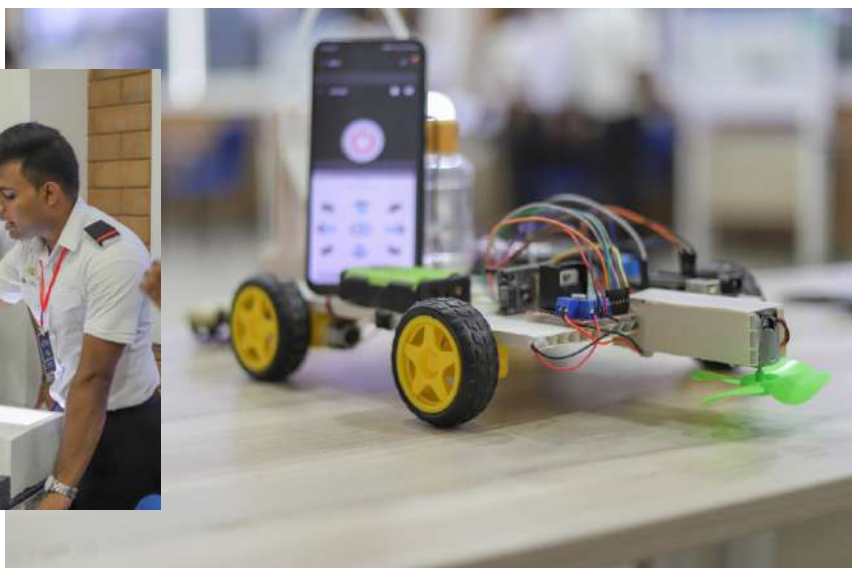
Day 01: The event commenced with an introduction to the game objectives, which set the tone for the competition.

Day 02: Participants delved into the intricacies of robot design and component selection during this engaging workshop. This session provided valuable insights into the crucial decisions that shape a robot's functionality.

Day 03: Circuit diagram verification and a comprehensive workshop on robot circuitry were the highlights of this day. Participants honed their practical skills, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and hands-on application.

Day 04: The final workshop focused on microcontrollers and programming, empowering participants to bring their robotic creations to life. This session showcased the union of hardware and software expertise.





The Department of Information Technology organized an IoT workshop and exhibition titled **“EXCITE TECH”**. The keynote speakers for the workshop were Eng. Praveen Weerasinghe, NERD Centre, Sri Lanka, and Prof. Attaphongse Taparugssanagorn, Asia Institute of Technology, Thailand. The workshop covered the areas of **“Introduction to Printed Circuit Design for IoT Applications** and **“Empowering Tomorrow: Navigating the Landscape of IoT”**.

The IoT exhibition was a remarkable display of creativity and ingenuity, with participants demonstrating their outstanding skills in designing and implementing cutting-edge IoT solutions. From smart homes to industrial automation, the exhibits covered a wide range of applications, highlighting the immense potential of IoT technology in transforming our daily lives. The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the announcement of the winning team. After days of intense competition, the ultimate champions of the IoT exhibition were revealed, receiving well-deserved praise and recognition.

TECHXiBit 2023



“TECHXiBit 2023”, a hardware and software exhibition organized by the British Computer Society (BCS) student chapter of KDU, in collaboration with the Electronics Robotics and Innovation Club (ERIC) of KDU, was successfully concluded on 24th August 2023 at the university premises. This event marked a milestone in the Southern Campus calendar as four teams comprising of Intake 39 undergraduates from the Department of Information Technology represented the Southern Campus as demonstrators of noteworthy projects related to IoT in this unique exhibition. Furthermore, one team managed to emerge as the fourth-best team amongst the top 07 teams shortlisted from the hardware category. This was undoubtedly a moment of pride for everyone involved in making this endeavour a success.

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & GUEST LECTURES

Workshops and training programmes organized by the Department of Nursing & Midwifery

The Department of Nursing & Midwifery took initiatives to develop a course curriculum for Masters in Obstetric Nursing and Women's Health with an exit Pg Diploma aiming for Registered Nurses in Sri Lanka. The WHO country office offered the services of a consultant (Dr. Jennifer Rebecca Stevens) to provide technical support for development of the curriculum. Accordingly, a curriculum development workshop and stakeholder meeting were held from 21st to 25th August 2023 and train the trainer programme was held during November – December 2023 as an online course.

Two, 5-day training workshops on mental health nursing were organized by the department of Nursing & Midwifery in collaboration with the NHS (East of England) UK from 7th – 11th August 2023 and 4th – 8th December 2023.

A workshop on **'Mentoring & Leadership for Nurses'** was held on 14th August at the FAHS premises. Professor Sally Hardy and Dr Paul Linsley from University of East Anglia contributed as resource persons for this workshop.



IoT Application design workshop

The Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Computing- KDU conducted a hands-on session on **'Designing IoT Applications Using Open-source IoT Platforms'** on 6th October 2023. Mr. Praveen Weerasinghe, a Research Engineer at the NERD Centre, facilitated the workshop to which over sixty undergraduates participated.



Awareness session on UN Sustainable Development Goals



Department of Information Technology in collaboration with CSSL Gen Z Chapter and IEEE WIE Student Branch of KDU conducted an awareness session on UN SDGs titled **“Awake for Impact: Awareness session on UN SDGs”**. The keynote speaker for this session was Professor Bingunath Ingirige, Professor of Urban Resilience and Adaptation- the University of Salford, UK. The workshop covered the area of capacity building for the implementation of UN SDGs to solve national and global challenges faced by nature and society.

This session was held in line with the upcoming competition titled **“IdealLab”** where undergraduates of the Faculty of Computing, Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences and Faculty of Technology will interact to propose innovative, sustainability-driven, value-added solution/s for a compelling national or global challenge.

Flutter unleashed: a comprehensive workshop

The Flutter and Firebase Workshop held on 22nd September 2023 at the Southern Campus of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was a truly transformative experience for students from Intake 39 and Intake 40 in the Faculty of Computing, Department of Information Technology. The workshop was expertly conducted, featuring Denver Shenal, Senior Software Engineer [Flutter] at Flexiata, Mr. Bavindu Dissanayaka, Software Engineer [Backend] at Flexiata, and Mr. Gagana Abeyrathna, Software Engineer [UX/UI] at Virtusa Pvt. Ltd. as the resource persons.



Java Zero to Hero workshop

The recent Java Zero to Hero Workshop organized by the Faculty of Computing, Department of Information Technology at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Southern Campus was held on 25th and 26th August 2023 and it marked a transformative experience for the computing undergraduates in attendance. The workshop kicked off with the expertise Mr. Maneesha Nirman - Senior Software Engineer, Mr. Supun Ekanayake - Associate Software Engineer, and Mr. Gagana Abeyrathna- Associate Software Engineer at Virtusa Pvt. Ltd.



Guest Lecture on Values, Norms, Ethics and Attitudes required of undergraduates in the Context of a Defence University



A Guest Lecture organized by the Faculty of Law, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) was held on 16th August 2023 with the participation of the undergraduates of the Faculty of Law, with the objective of enhancing values, norms, ethics and attitudes of the undergraduates.

The Guest Speaker was Senior Professor Susirith Mendis, Professor of Physiology Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, KDU, a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna and a former Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna.

Git and GitHub workshop



The Git and GitHub workshop that was organized by the Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) Community of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was held on 29th July 2023, and it brought about a whole new experience for the computing undergraduates. The workshop commenced with the GitHub campus expert, Mr. Suvin Nimnaka, who had been invited to conduct the session, giving an introduction to the concepts of this unique collaboration platform. This was followed by a range of entertaining practical and interactive activities for the participants.

Student participation at SLASSCOM's workshop

Students at the Department of Information Technology took the opportunity to attend the Industry Project Simulation Workshop which was organized by SLASSCOM Capacity Forum in collaboration with Tech Forum on 6th July 2023 at Virtusa, Orion City. This workshop was for undergraduates from the University of Vavuniya, KDU, and NSBM in SLASSCOM's Graduate to Career (G2C) programme. This programme, which was launched on 11th January 2023, aims at integrating academic knowledge and industry practices by mainly focusing on the areas of technical and soft skill upliftment of Sri Lankan undergraduates and graduates to ensure that they meet the present industry standards.



Leadership development training for Intake 39 & 40 ICT Students



ICT students of the Faculty of Technology take part in a Leadership Development Training programme conducted by the university from 4th July 2023 to 8th July 2023. The programme consisted of five sessions aimed at developing leadership qualities, teamwork, and positive thinking through theoretical and practical training. The programme was successfully concluded on 8th July 2023 with a campfire and a talent show.

Exploring the Depths: a guest lecture by Chief Engineer Lewin Samarasinghe



In a remarkable display of knowledge sharing and professional insights, the Department of Marine Engineering of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University hosted a guest lecture on 10th August 2023 that left a lasting impact on

marine engineering and naval architecture undergraduates. The distinguished speaker, Chief Engineer Lewin Samarasinghe, a towering figure and a seasoned professional in the maritime industry, presented a comprehensive talk that illuminated various aspects of marine engineering. Holding the prestigious rank of Chief Engineer Class 1 COC, Mr. Samarasinghe has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and his contributions to the industry have positioned him as an ideal mentor for budding marine engineering professionals.

person. The programme aimed to educate library staff on identifying infestation and status of deterioration, and necessary precautions to safeguard library collections. Dr. Cabral covered topics including infestation identification, human activities as a cause of destruction of materials, environmental issues, insect types, damage types, and preventive measures to ensure the longevity of library materials.

Webinar on addressing Water Security



Sri Lanka's Water Forum held an online webinar on Implementing Brackish Water Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plants to combat Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The webinar aimed to explore the pressing issue of CKD in Sri Lanka, a chronic health condition that has affected numerous communities, especially in rural areas. The focus of the discussion was on implementing Brackish Water Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plants as a potential solution to combat the escalating crisis. Cmdre (E) MCP Dissanayake, Chairman of the Water Forum, Dr. Nishantha Kumarasinghe, Dr. Nadeeka Miguntanna, facilitated the discussion to ensure comprehensive exchange of ideas. With over 50 participants, the event demonstrated a collective commitment to finding innovative solutions and building a healthier, more secure future for Sri Lanka's communities.

Awareness programme on Library Material Preservation



The KDU Library, in collaboration with the Staff Development Centre of KDU, organized an awareness programme on Library Book Preservation Methods on 9th November 2023. Dr. Udaya Cabral, Head of the Conservation and Preservation Division at the National Library of Sri Lanka, was the resource

Signature seminar 2023: Responding to Disinformation and Building Disinformation Resilience



The Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies (FDSS) and the Centre for Strategic Assessment (CSA) jointly organized a seminar on 14th December 2023 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The seminar addressed the critical issue of Responding to Disinformation and Building Disinformation Resilience. Honourable MUM Ali Sabry PC MP- Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mrs. Aruni Wijewardane- Secretary of the Ministry were the esteemed guests. The event, structured into three sessions, focused on **“Strategic & International Relations,” “Political Economic & Legal,”** and **“Social Engineering & Operational Challenges.”** In which nine distinguished speakers, both local and international, shared insights. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Attorney General’s Department, and the corporate sector.

Capacity building in higher education: nEUROcare Project 2023

The fifth nEUROcare project, funded by the Erasmus+ grant, aims to address the challenges of caring for neurodegenerative disorders in Sri Lanka by establishing a specialized master’s degree programme. Four Sri Lankan universities, General Sir John Kotelawela Defence University (KDU), University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, and University of Ruhuna, are collaborating with European counterparts, including Kristianstad University, Sweden, to develop this programme. The project involves delegates from partner European universities such as the University of Ljubljana, Neapolis University Pafos, University of Tartu, and the Triskelion Institute.

The 5th international workshop of the nEUROcare project was held from 7th - 9th November 2023, at the Hotel Radisson Blu Resort, Galle, hosted by the University of Ruhuna. Participants included Rear Admiral Dammika Kumara- Vice Chancellor, KDU, Dr. Prasanna Herath, Dr. Kalpani Abhayasinghe, Dr. Dinithi Vidanage, Dr. Maliga Wijesiri, and Mr. Chandima Kumara from the Department of Nursing and Midwifery of KDU. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa- Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena- Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Prof. SSP Warnakulasuriya- Country Manager of the nEUROcare project, and Prof. KG Imendra, Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna were also present.



Workshop on “AI-Enhanced Research and Publications Strategy: Leveraging Bibliometric Tools for Academic Success”



The KDU Library and the Staff Development Centre organized a successful workshop titled **“AI- Enhanced Research and Publications Strategy: Leveraging Bibliometric Tools for Academic Success.”** on 28th November 2023, and it was conducted by Prof. Rajan Balasubramani from Bharathidasan University, India. The workshop focused on topics such as AI tools for scholarly journal navigation and understanding impact factors. Attendees praised the workshop for its insightful discussions and hands-on exploration of relevant tools as a supporting mechanism in teaching and learning.

Prof. Balasubramani also paid a courtesy visit to Vice Chancellor Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara, along with Deputy Vice Chancellor Brigadier DCA Wickramasinghe, to discuss the importance of learning analytics for academic reputation enhancement.

FOC preconference workshop on Smart Solutions for a Smart Future with AI



The pre-conference workshop of the 16th International Research Conference of the Faculty of Computing, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, held on 6th September 2023 was a great success. The workshop featured two speakers: Mr. Nisal Mihiranga, a Data Science professional with over 11 years of experience, and Dr. Kaneeka Vidanage, an experienced academic with close to 15 years of work experience in AI. The workshop was well received by the attendees, who found the presentations to be informative and engaging.

Solid Works and CAD Workshop



IMechE Student Chapter organized a workshop on Solid Works and CAD drawing basics for engineering students on 19th July 2023.

The resource person of the workshop was Mr. Kumaravelu Krishnakumar from ACECAM.

Industrial guidance workshop nurturing future engineers



IMechE Student Chapter organized a transformative event on 09th August 2023. Resource persons of the workshop were Chandula Padmasiri- Senior Engineer specializing in Automation at MAS, and Ramidu Ranashanka- Assistant Engineer in Marketing at Tantri Trailers Ltd.

Prepare for the workplace: Soft Skills and Professional Development

IMechE Student Chapter conducted a highly informative professional development workshop on 23rd August 2023. The resource persons were Mr. Sharon Fernando, Mr. Vimukthi Mahakumbura, Ms. Chanukah Gunawardena, Ms. Oshadi Kaumuda, Mr. Rukmal Fernando, and Mr. Sachith Thalagala.



Capacity building workshop in collaboration with the Institute for Security Governance (ISG) of the USA



The Centre for Strategic Assessment (CSA) of FDSS conducted a capacity building workshop on 11th and 12th July 2023 in association with the Institute for Security Governance (ISG) of the USA. Brigadier Chinthaka Wickramasinghe USP USACGSC- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Defence & Administration) of KDU delivered the opening remarks. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of CSA, established on June 6 2023 to contribute effectively to Sri Lanka's strategic development and policymaking. It also strengthened the relationship between CSA and KDU, fostering collaboration with national security institutions and other stakeholders. Vice Chancellor Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc appreciated the contribution of ISG on CSA and KDU's advancement in Strategic Studies and International Relations.

Opening of new accommodation buildings at Southern Campus of KDU

Three new accommodation buildings were declared opened at the Southern Campus of KDU on 28th July, 2023. This includes a Cadet Mess, and male and female accommodation buildings. The cadet mess building consists of 24 rooms, and is equipped with a dormitory, visitors' room, mess, bar and other amenities. This would facilitate 40 Officer Cadets and another phase of the building is yet to be completed.

The male and female accommodation buildings consist of 26 rooms on twin sharing basis and each building could accommodate 52 students. These hostel buildings are equipped with attached bathrooms, TV room, warden room, study areas and other amenities. The opening of these newly constructed hostel building was graced by the Secretary of Defence, Vice Chancellor of KDU, Chief of Staff, Commanders of the Tri-forces, Director Construction of Sri Lanka Navy and other visiting delegates. In addition, Mr. Sunil Ariyaratna, Chairman- Arch International (Pvt) Ltd, Eng. Bhakthi Akmeemana, residential engineer of CESL, CEO-Eng. L.W. J. N. De Alwis, COE (South)-Eng. J. D. Sunil, Eng. Janaka – Chief Engineer were present at the occasion.



STAFF WELFARE /TRAINING

A study visit to the Open University of Sri Lanka



On 4th and 7th December 2023, two library staff groups from KDU paid a study visit to the library at the Open University of Sri Lanka. All participants took part in the awareness programme led by the senior library staff at OUSL. During the library visit, knowledge on bibliographic control, bookbinding, acquisition policies, and other aspects of library operations were shared.

Official ticket launch for 'The BnS Show with Umaria & Randhir Live at KDU'



The First Inaugural ticket for the event was handed over by the President of the Welfare Society Dr. Upali Rajapaksha, along with the Vice President, Dr. Namali Sirisoma, Secretary, Mr. Champika Gunasekara to the Vice chancellor of KDU, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil (Ind), marking the official commencement of ticket sales. The BnS Show with Umaria & Randhir Live at KDU presented by the Welfare Society of KDU was held on 17th August 2023 at the KDU ground with the aim of raising funds for the Welfare Society of KDU.

The Faculty of Technology ceremonially opens doors to its newly acquired premises

The Faculty of Technology (FOT) of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) opened its newly acquired premises on 24th August 2023. On the invitation of the Dean Faculty of Technology Prof KMGP Premadasa, Vice Chancellor Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil (Ind) and Rear Admiral HGU Dammika Kumara VSV USP psc, the Vice Chancellor-Designate, graced the occasion to unveil the name board. The Vice Chancellor launched the faculty's new website, providing essential information for prospective students, businesses, and visitors access to crucial and timely information.



APPOINTMENTS

ACADEMIC STAFF



Colonel USB Ratnayake
RWP RSP psc

Appointed as the
Dean of the Faculty of
Defence and Strategic
Studies,
w.e.f. 09.07.2023



Dr. LS Liyanage

Appointed as the
Dean of the Faculty of
Management,
Social Sciences and
Humanities,
w.e.f. 12.09.2023



Dr. HR Vidanage

Appointed as the
Director - International
Relations Office,
w.e.f. 11.07.2023



Dr. N Wedasinhe

Appointed as the
Director Gender
Equity and Equality,
w.e.f. 20.09.2023



Dr. KR Ambepitiya

Appointed as the
Director - Career
Guidance Unit,
w.e.f. 20.09.2023



Dr. KSC De Silva

Appointed as
the Head of the
Department -
Strategic Studies,
w.e.f. 10.07.2023



DR. KDW Wijenayake

Appointed as the Head of the Department - Medical Education, w.e.f. 16.08.2023



Lieutenant Colonel IACN Dissanayake

Appointed as the Head of the Department - Dentistry, w.e.f. 01.09.2023



Dr. TKJBM Jayasundara

Appointed as the Head of the Department - Social Sciences, w.e.f. 12.09.2023



Captain (E) TADBP Tissaarachchi

Appointed as the Head of the Department - Marine Engineering, w.e.f. 09.09.2023



Prof. HDBN Indrarathne

Appointed as Professor in English Language Teaching, Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, w.e.f. 02.10.2023



Dr. MDAS Gunatilleke

Appointed as Senior Lecturer Grade I, Faculty of Medicine, w.e.f. 19.07.2023



Major (Dr.) RMM Pradeep

Appointed as Senior Lecturer Grade I, Faculty of Computing, w.e.f. 15.12.2023



Dr. HT Rupasinghe

Appointed as Senior Lecturer Grade II, Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences, w.e.f. 10.08.2023



Dr. BPA Amarasinghe

Appointed as Lecturer (Unconfirmed), Faculty of Law, w.e.f. 14.08.2023



Mr. SAN Kulasinghe

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Engineering, w.e.f. 04.07.2023



Ms. MVT Kawya

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Computing, w.e.f. 08.08.2023



Ms. GAD Ganepola

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Computing, w.e.f. 09.08.2023



Ms. LY Hitige

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Engineering, w.e.f. 09.08.2023



Mr. WKD Ramese

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences, w.e.f. 10.08.2023



Ms. CD Iddagoda

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences, w.e.f. 10.08.2023



Mr. LSL Fernando

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Engineering, w.e.f. 16.08.2023



Mr. AD Rasandun

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Engineering, w.e.f. 16.08.2023



Mr. LDR Madhuranga

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Technology, w.e.f. 21.08.2023



Ms. SMM Sanjune

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences, w.e.f. 22.08.2023



Ms. KMNT Konara

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Law, w.e.f. 01.09.2023



Ms. SMM Lakmali

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary), Faculty of Computing, w.e.f. 04.09.2023



Ms. KLPD Lekamge

Appointed as
Lecturer
(Probationary),
Faculty of Law,
w.e.f. 12.09.2023



Captain RS Ginige

Appointed as
Lecturer
(Probationary),
Faculty of
Engineering,
w.e.f. 13.09.2023



Mr. MGA Thilanka

Appointed as
Assistant Librarian,
Main Library,
w.e.f. 07.08.2023

ACADEMIC SUPPORT STAFF



Ms. LDTT De Silva

Appointed as
Instructor Grade II,
Faculty of Computing,
w.e.f. 09.08.2023



**Mr. ATG
Gunathilaka**

Appointed
as Network
Administrator
Grade II,
w.e.f. 14.08.2023



Mr. TM Kandege

Appointed as Network
Administrator Grade II,
w.e.f. 02.10.2023

PROMOTIONS



Dr. AD De Silva

Promoted to
Professor in
Immunology, Faculty
of Medicine,
w.e.f. 08.03.2022



Dr. KW Samarakoon

Promoted to
Professor in
Biotechnology,
KDU-CARE,
w.e.f. 24.03.2022



**Dr. KMGP
Premadasa**

Promoted to
Professor in
Biotechnology,
Faculty of
Technology,
w.e.f. 21.08.2022



**Dr. WMAGHA
Premarathne**

Promoted to
Senior Lecturer
Grade I, Faculty
of Management,
Social Sciences and
Humanities,
w.e.f. 01.06.2021



Mr. NS Rathnayake

Promoted to Senior
Lecturer Grade I,
Faculty of Engineering,
w.e.f. 01.01.2022



**Ms. RBWMH
Rathnamalala**

Promoted to Senior
Lecturer Grade I,
Faculty of Law,
w.e.f. 03.10.2022



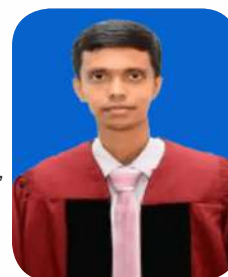
Dr. MTN Wijetunga

Promoted to
Senior Lecturer
Grade I, Faculty
of Management,
Social Sciences and
Humanities,
w.e.f. 01.11.2022



Dr. LP Kalansooriya

Promoted to Senior
Lecturer Grade I,
Faculty of Computing,
w.e.f. 16.01.2023



**Mr. SLMD
Rangajeeva**

Promoted to
Senior Lecturer
Grade I, Faculty of
Engineering,
w.e.f. 14.02.2023



Ms. TH Solomons

Promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I, Faculty of Medicine, w.e.f. 16.02.2023



Dr. TI Withanawasam

Promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I, Faculty of Medicine, w.e.f. 30.03.2023



Dr. WMID Nakkawita

Promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I, Faculty of Medicine, w.e.f. 16.05.2023



Dr. TV Sanjeevanie

Promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I, Faculty of Medicine, w.e.f. 07.04.2022



Dr. AK Chandana

Promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, w.e.f. 22.04.2019



Dr. ADM Gunasekara

Promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II, Faculty of Medicine, w.e.f. 03.05.2023



Dr. YSHTD Silva

Promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II, Faculty of Medicine, w.e.f. 30.09.2022



Mrs. PDBS Pathirana

Promoted to Assistant Registrar - Examination, w.e.f. 01.08.2023



Ms. SGJ Silva

Promoted to Assistant Registrar - Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, w.e.f. 02.08.2023



