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Merging the Outcomes of Higher Education and Vocational Education & Training for a Holistic Workforce Development

Diverse Abilities of Individuals

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Individuals possess diverse abilities. For some, the brain takes precedence, while for others, manual dexterity excels. A few individuals are fortunate enough to possess both talents. By aligning the right person with the right task, extraordinary outcomes can be achieved. When these exceptional outcomes are combined, the ultimate result can be nothing short of brilliant.

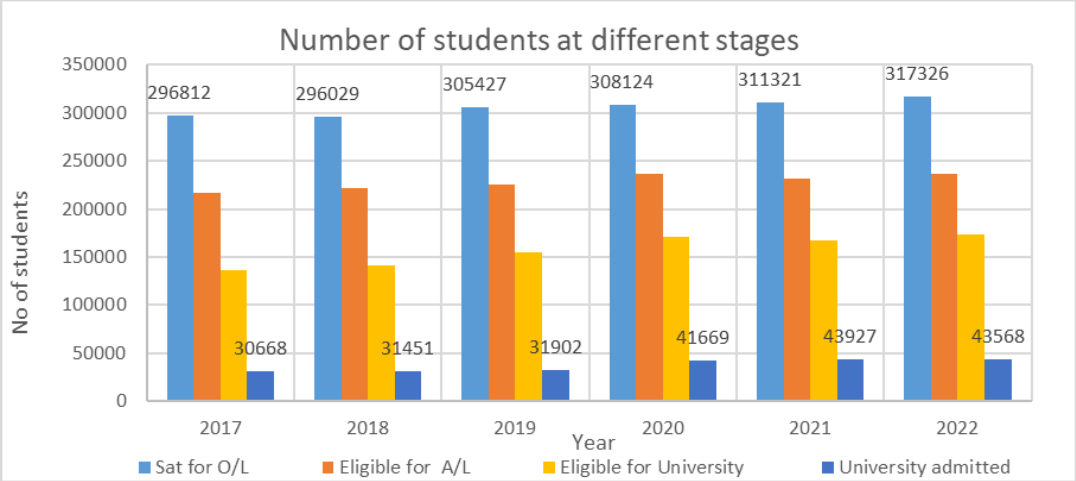
To apply this concept in the real world of work, it is essential to recognize everyone's talents. It is well-known that a country's education system bears the responsibility of implementing procedures from childhood to identify these talents and create a suitable environment for their future development.

In a competitive learning environment, recognizing children's latent skills can be challenging. However, when the environment is supportive and offers practical learning experiences, these talents can emerge and flourish. To ensure this development, it is essential that students are not overwhelmed by theoretical concepts during their primary education.

Diverse Abilities of Individuals

In Sri Lanka, primary education is mandatory. However, it is noted that 11% of students, or 36000, drop out before finishing the GCE O/L exam (Athukorala, 2024). Additionally, as shown in Figure 1, dropout rates at the GCE O/L, GCE A/L, and university entrance remain significantly high.

Approximately 87% of students who sat for the O/L exam drop out at various stages, averaging 268,642 dropouts each year. Including those who drop out before the GCE O/L, the total rises to 314,642. Therefore, the government's responsibility is to get these students involved in various skilled work and support their lifelong learning development.



Note: From Labor Market Information Bulletin, volume 2/19 & volume 2/23, (Tertiary & Vocational Education Commission, 2024))

Figure 1: *Number of Students Moving to the Next Level of HE*

Higher Education and Vocational Education & Training

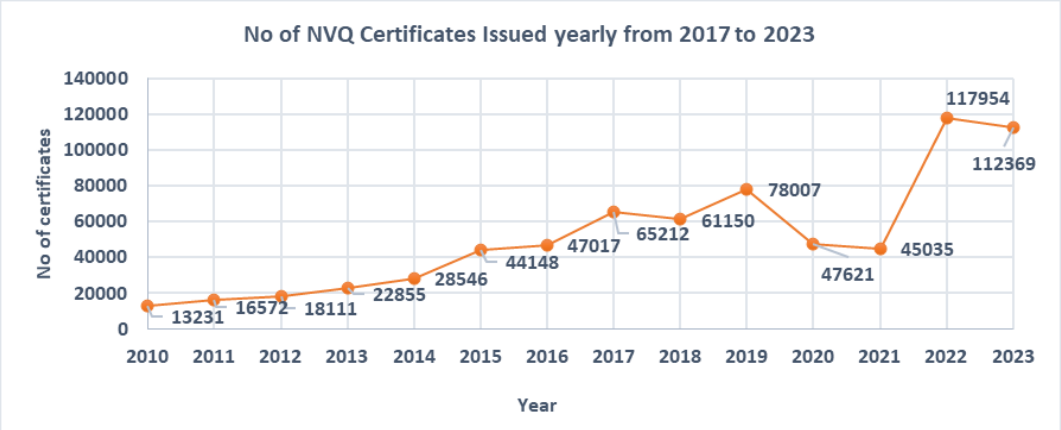
Today, there is a higher demand for Higher Education (HE) than for vocational education (Karunathilake et al., 2022). Although the government has attempted to enhance skill formation through Vocational Education and Training (VET), these initiatives have not met expectations, as young people tend to prioritize, HE instead.

State and non-state Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) operate under the University Grants Commission (UGC), which introduced the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) in 2012. This framework provides a nationwide standard for all higher education qualifications in Sri Lanka. Currently, the SLQF is implemented across all HEIs, both public and private, that offer post-secondary education programs. One of SLQF's objectives is to endorse the recognition of accredited prior learning, thereby enhancing vertical mobility within the higher education system. (SLQF, 2012)

The National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Framework, introduced in 2005, is a nationally recognized system of tertiary education awards developed by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) in Sri Lanka.

The balance between cognitive and psychomotor outcomes may differ between the two qualifications. Additionally, the characteristics of holders of these qualifications, which are below the degree level, may vary at equivalent SLQF and NVQ levels (SLQF, 2012).

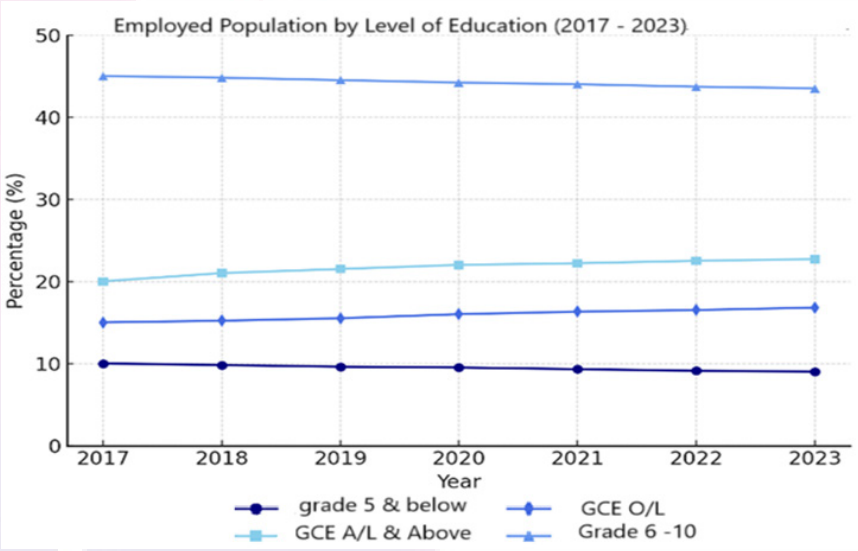
Since 2017, there has been a consistent yearly increase in the skilled workforce with NVQ certificates, as shown in Figure 2. In 2023, the number of individuals holding NVQ certificates is 112369, accounting for nearly 36% of those entering society or the workforce without pursuing higher education.



Source: Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission- NVQ Certificate Printing System
Note: NVQ recipient may obtain more than one certificate.

Figure 2: *Number of NVQ Certificates Issued from 2010 to 2023*

Figure 3 presents the employed population categorized by educational attainment from 2017 to 2023 (Labor Market Information Bulletin, 2023). The largest group is composed of individuals with educational qualifications ranging from Grade 6 to 10, although this population has been steadily decreasing each year. Likewise, those with Grade 5 and lower are also on the decline, while the numbers for GCE O/L and GCE A/L or higher are consistently increasing. This data indicates the rising significance of vocational education and training qualifications for current employees with relatively lower education levels, specifically those holding GCE O/L qualifications or below.



Note: From Annual report of Sri Lanka labor force survey - Department of census and Statistics

Figure 3: *Employed Population by Level of Education from 2017 to 2023*

Integration of VET and Higher HE programs

In Germany, the relationship of VET and HE has evolved in two primary ways: "increased connection and access" and "changing social demand and aspirations" which minimizes the traditional and rigid division between the two sectors. This shift is fueled by the broader trend of "academization" (Wolter & Kerst, 2015).

To challenge the conventional view that separates VET and HE pathways, explores the integration of VET and HE through double-degree programmes (Farran & Nunez, 2024). In this framework, it is anticipated that blending the practical skills of VET with the analytical and creative abilities offered by HE will create powerful outcomes synergies.

The report of Hodge and Knight (2021) indicates that a tightly integrated system of VET and HE qualifications can be user-unfriendly and more complicated to develop and manage. In contrast, a flexible integrated model is more approachable.

Merging Outcomes of HE and VET

The SLQF could be seen as a crown. This metaphor signifies that as the value of a qualification increases, the number of individuals achieving it decreases. Additionally, as one approaches higher qualifications, the fields or areas become more refined and specialized. Higher education falls within the cognitive domain, focusing on knowledge and intellectual skills. Hence, the SLQF stands as a crown on the head of an individual.

The VET qualification framework, known as NVQ, resembles an empty cone that can be filled. Students, or dropouts, are encouraged to take this corn and fill it with work experiences and skills in the psychomotor domain. Starting from basic job roles, they will gradually acquire more advanced skills and knowledge through lifelong learning. As a result, the demand for and value of the cone holder continues to grow. A schematic diagram illustrating the education process flow is presented in Figure 4. It indicates that the levels of learning and qualifications gained at different levels.

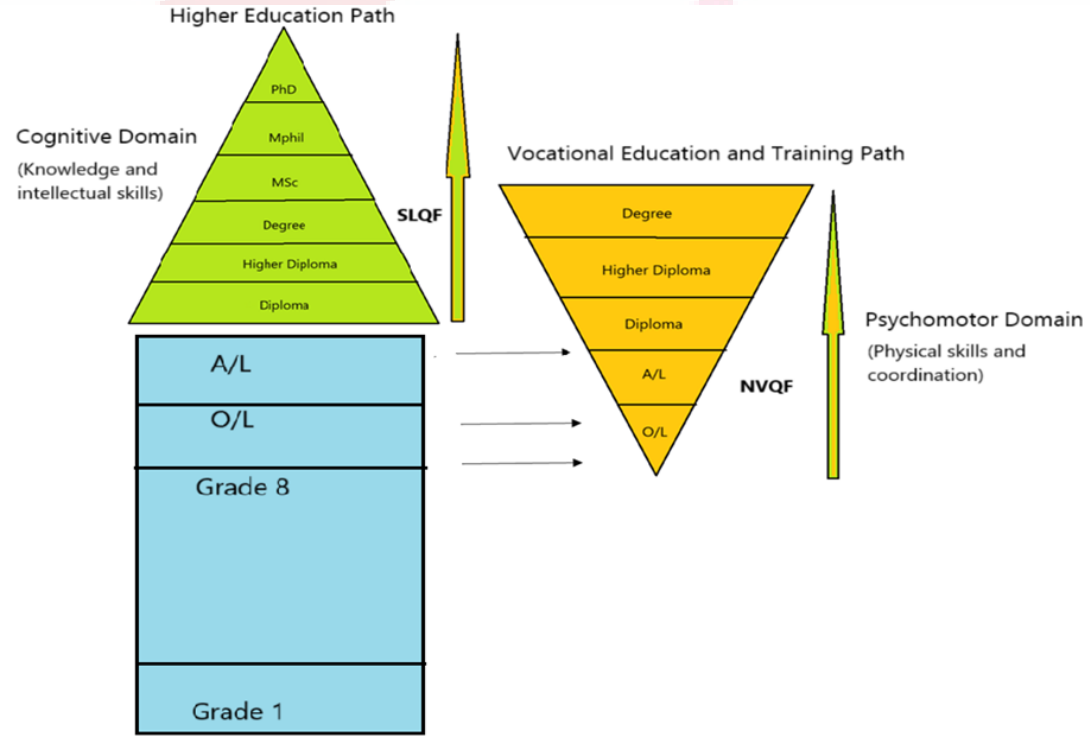


Figure 4: *Schematic Diagram of Qualification Frameworks*

In the working world, individuals who hold a crown on their head and cone in their hand are present. When a crown and a cone are combined correctly, a star will emerge, as illustrated in the schematic diagram in Figure 5.

Integrating practical experience with theoretical knowledge of two individuals, involves merging VET with HE to enhance the outcomes of both systems. This synergy will brighten the workplace. Achieving this can be done by equally recognizing and cherishing holders of both qualifications. There is no need to create more complex educational models aiming to provide the same person with both analytical and practical skills. Conversely, individuals capable of navigating an integrated education system combining VET and HE became multi-skilled superstars, possessing practical, analytical, and creative knowledge.

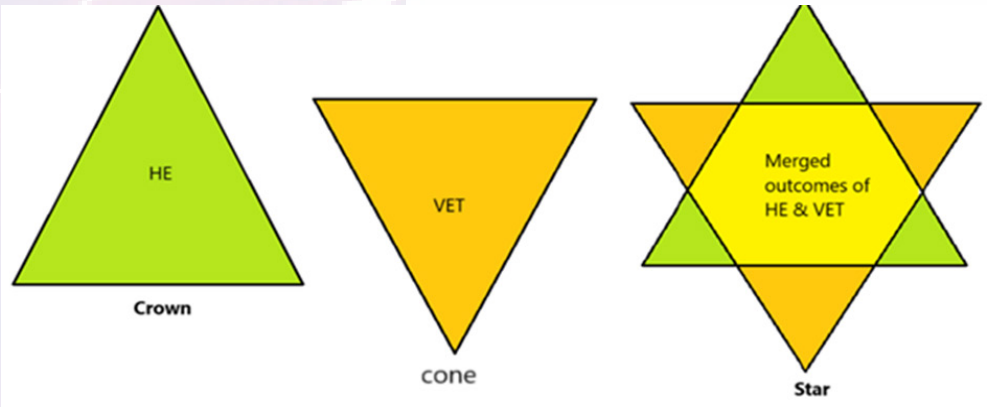


Figure 5: *Schematic Diagram of Crown, Cone and Star*

Closing Remarks

Identifying students' skills during their primary to ordinary education phase and encouraging their development is essential. Additionally, both VET and HE paths should receive equal recognition. This approach will reduce dropout rates up to the ordinary level, leading to greater student satisfaction with their choice between VET and HE. Furthermore, combining practical skills with theoretical knowledge by integrating individuals who possess these qualities will promote holistic development of the workforce.

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Effective Science Communication on Social Media

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Science communication (SciComm) is more than just explaining scientific concepts; it is about making them accessible, engaging, and impactful for a broad audience (Burns, 2003). In an era where misinformation spreads rapidly, effective SciComm plays a crucial role in shaping public understanding and policy decisions. Social media, with its vast reach and interactive nature, is a powerful tool for communicating science. However, not all SciComm is effective. This article explores strategies for making complex topics understandable without compromising accuracy, with a focus on the Suspense-Context-Resolution (SCR) Loop as a model for engaging audiences on social media.

The Importance of Effective Science Communication

Science is inherently complex, often laden with jargon and technical details that can alienate non-experts. The goal of SciComm is not to turn everyone into a scientist, but to make science relevant and relatable. When done well, SciComm fosters curiosity, builds public trust in science, and empowers people to make informed decisions (Kang, 2009). Poor SciComm, on the other hand, leads to confusion, disengagement, and even the spread of misinformation.

Social media platforms, with their ability to reach diverse audiences, present both opportunities and challenges for SciComm. The fast-paced, visually driven nature of these platforms demands creativity and precision in communication. Effective SciComm on social media requires a balance between engagement, clarity, and accuracy, ensuring that scientific knowledge is both accessible and impactful.

Integration of Suspense-Context-Resolution loops in SciComm

The Suspense-Context-Resolution (SCR) Loop is a powerful framework for science communication, designed to captivate and educate audiences through a structured, iterative process. This model (Figure 1) is particularly effective on social media, where short attention spans demand engaging and concise content. The process begins with a hook—a surprising fact, question, or problem that immediately grabs attention. For example, "What if the coffee we drink today could disappear by 2050 due to climate change?" This hook creates a "curiosity gap," compelling the audience to seek answers (Loewenstein, 1994).

Once the hook has drawn the audience in, the SCR cycle begins. The first step is Suspense, where the communicator introduces a thought-provoking element to maintain interest. This could be a question like, "How are scientists working to save our coffee?" Next, Context is provided to explain the issue in relatable terms, such as describing how rising temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns threaten coffee crops worldwide. Finally, the Resolution reveals the answer or insight, such as, "Scientists are developing drought-resistant coffee plants to safeguard the future of coffee production." This cycle of suspense, context, and resolution can be repeated multiple times throughout the story, each time introducing a new layer of information or a fresh perspective to keep the audience engaged.

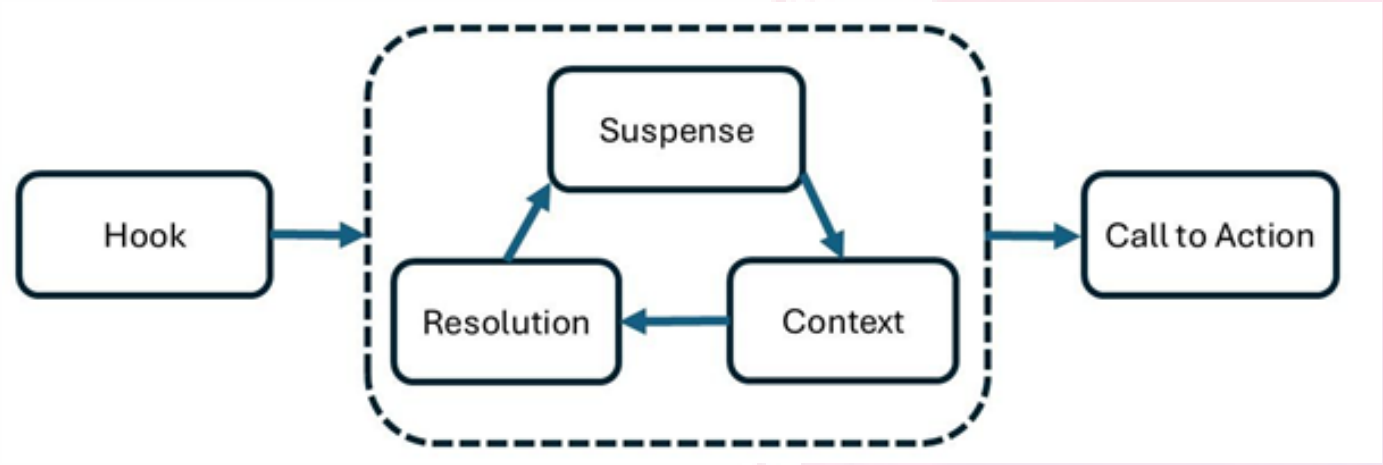

Figure 1 *The structure of Suspense-Context-Resolution (SCR) Loop*

The iterative nature of the SCR Loop ensures that the audience remains curious and invested. Each cycle builds on the previous one, gradually deepening understanding while maintaining a sense of discovery. For instance, after resolving the initial question about coffee, the next cycle might explore the science behind drought-resistant plants, followed by a discussion of how these innovations could impact global agriculture.

The process culminates in a **Call to Action** (CTA), which serves as the final step to drive audience engagement beyond the article. A well-crafted CTA encourages the audience to take the next step, whether it's learning more, sharing the information, or applying the knowledge in their lives (Thomas et al., 2006). For example, after explaining the science and its implications, the CTA might invite the audience to "Explore how you can support sustainable farming practices" or "Join the conversation about climate change solutions."

The Engagement and Visualizing Audience Interaction

Audience retention graphs are essential tools for science communicators, offering a clear snapshot of how well content engages viewers (Figure 2). In an effective SciComm piece (a), peaks in retention highlight moments where curiosity is reignited—through surprising facts, thought-provoking questions, or interactive elements. These videos show longer retention (close to 50%) and higher average watch times, signaling strong engagement. Platforms like YouTube and Instagram prioritise such content, boosting its visibility through suggestion algorithms.

In contrast, a less effective approach (b) often shows a sharp initial drop in viewership, followed by a gradual decline. This indicates disengagement, often due to monotonous delivery or overly complex explanations. Graph B also reveals lower retention percentages and shorter watch times, which algorithms interpret as less engaging, reducing the content's reach.

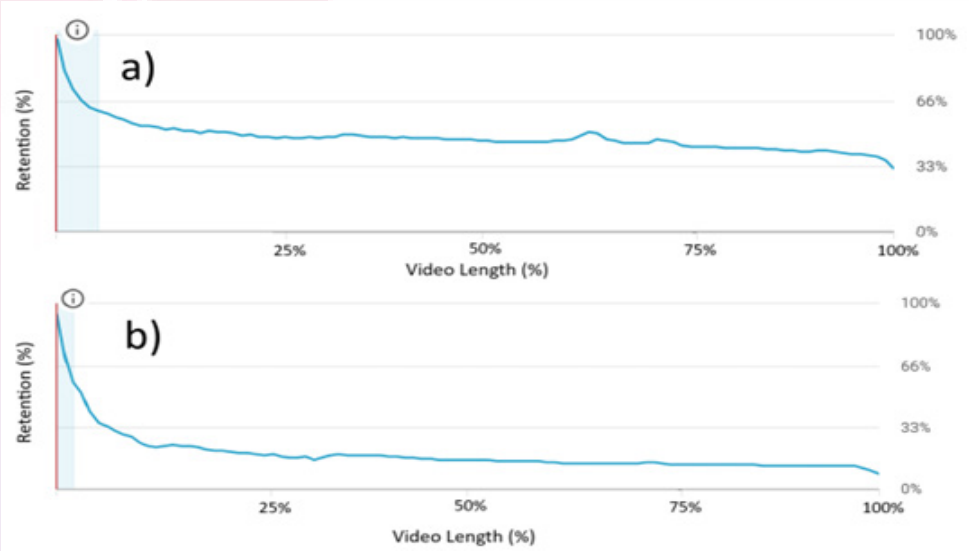

Figure 2 *Audience retention graphs of a) effective SciComm piece b) less effective SciComm piece*

By analysing these graphs, communicators can refine their strategies—simplifying complex ideas, adding relatable analogies, or incorporating interactive elements. This not only improves retention but also leverages platform algorithms to amplify their message, ensuring science reaches and resonates with a broader audience.

The Role of Visual Graphs in Science Communication

Visual graphs, such as the one depicting various protein sources in food (Figure 3), play a crucial role in effective science communication. Graphs like this are highly shareable because they distil complex information into a format that is easy to understand at a glance. By presenting data visually, they allow audiences to quickly grasp key insights without needing to wade through dense text or technical jargon. For example, a graph comparing protein content in different foods can immediately highlight which options are most nutrient-dense, making it accessible even to those without a background in nutrition.

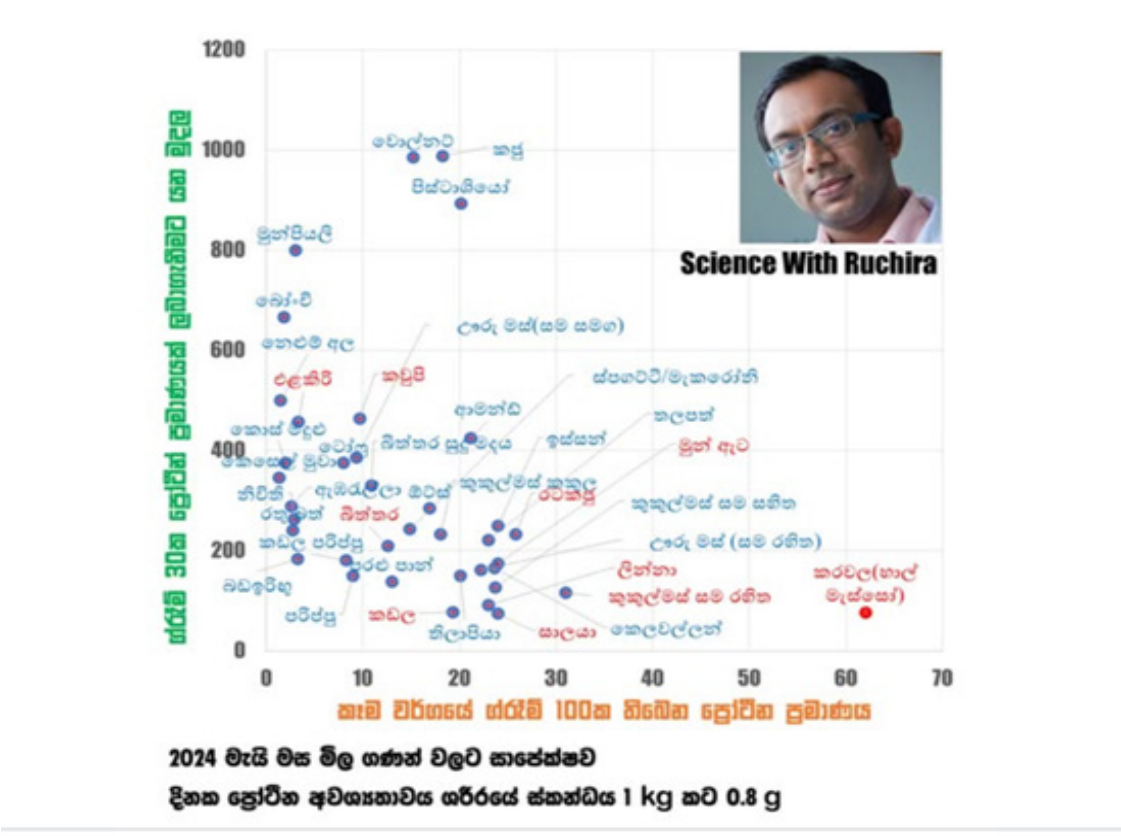

Figure 3 *Using visual graphs for SciComm*

Moreover, visual graphs are inherently engaging. They use colors, shapes, and patterns to capture attention and maintain interest, which is especially important on social media platforms where users scroll quickly. The simplicity and clarity of a well-designed graph ensure that the message is not only understood but also retained. This makes such visuals an invaluable tool for SciComm, as they bridge the gap between scientific data and public understanding, fostering curiosity and encouraging further exploration of the topic.

The Future of SciComm on Social Media

The way science is communicated matters. In an age where misinformation can spread rapidly, SciComm must be clear, engaging, and accessible. The difference between good and bad SciComm is not just about accuracy but about connection—does the audience understand, care, and want to learn more?

By applying the principles of clarity, storytelling, engagement, and accessibility, we can bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and public understanding, fostering a society that values and trusts science. The SCR Loop provides a roadmap for achieving this goal, ensuring that science communication on social media is both impactful and inclusive.

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ACADEMIC EVENTS & SERVICES

Motivational Programme for Semester I Polymer Students

The annual Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology Day was hosted on February 10th, 2024, at the Dry Rubber Technology Laboratory, bringing together industry experts and enthusiastic students for a day of learning and inspiration. The event featured presentations from four distinguished speakers who are at the forefront of their respective fields. Dr. Sunil Mendis from ATG Ceylon delivered an insightful presentation on "Sustainable Waste Management," addressing critical environmental challenges facing the industry today. Mr. P.P. Perera representing the Plastic & Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka shared an "Inspirational Roadmap for Professional Growth," offering students practical advice for career advancement in the polymer and chemical engineering sectors. Mr. Sudath Fernando from ATG Ceylon captivated the audience with his talk titled "Titanium Dreams: Stronger Than Steel," showcasing cutting-edge innovations in materials science and Mr. Vithusan Rajeswaran from Morison Ltd (Hemas) provided a comprehensive overview of the "Authentic Industrial Landscape," giving students a realistic preview of what to expect as they enter the workforce.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to engage directly with these industry veterans, who generously shared their professional journeys, challenges faced, and lessons learned along the way. The event concluded with presenting certificates of appreciation.

Motivational session – ''Unleashing Your Potential: Navigating the Journey of Personal Growth"

On February 20, 2024, the Division of Polymer & Chemical Engineering Technology organized a motivational session as part of the divisional orientation program for the 2022/2023 intake of freshmen.

The event featured three distinguished alumni who have excelled in the chemical and polymer technology fields: Ahan Hettiarachchi, Managing Director, Prudence Engineering Services (Pvt.) Ltd., Supun Jayawardena, Assistant Manager, Business Development and Sales, Hayleys Aventura (Pvt.) Ltd. and Aravinda Bandara, Managing Director, T.I.P. Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd. Additionally, the session was enriched by the presence of Mr. Tharindu Jayawardhana, the batch top of the 2020/2021 intake, who shared his academic journey and insights. This interactive and engaging session provided invaluable career guidance, industry perspectives, and personal development strategies for the freshmen. The students actively participated, expressed their appreciation through gratitude speeches, and provided positive written feedback, highlighting the event's impact on their motivation and aspirations.

Enhancing Practical Skills in Plastic Technology: A Hands-on Learning Experience

The Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology conducted a Plastic Technology Practical Session for Level 2 Semester IV students of the Department of Materials and Mechanical Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 9th March 2024. The session, coordinated by Ms. Amali Weerakoon, featured the expertise of Dr. Sudarshana Perera, who guided students through key aspects of plastic technology. Designed to provide immersive, hands-on experience, the session allowed students to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical setting. To reinforce learning outcomes, students underwent a viva at the conclusion of the session, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of their understanding. This initiative reflects the Division's commitment to equipping students with industry-relevant skills, bridging the gap between academics and real-world applications.

ITUM Expands Horizons through International Collaborations

In 2024, the ITUM actively pursued international academic partnerships through a series of strategic discussions with prestigious institutions across Asia.

ITUM engaged in productive discussions with Japan National Institute of Technology, Tokuyama College (March 19, 2024), Shandong Dong University of Science and Technology, China (June 2 and November 7, 2024) and Hanoi Industrial Textile Garment University, Vietnam (November 29, 2024)

These meetings focused on fostering academic partnerships, student and faculty exchanges, and joint research initiatives. Strengthening global ties, ITUM aims to enhance educational and research opportunities through these collaborations.

Establishment of a State-of-the-Art Air Conditioning Laboratory in the Division of Mechanical Engineering Technology

A state-of-the-art air conditioning laboratory which is equipped with the latest industry-standard facilities was established in ITUM. This cutting-edge lab was designed to enhance practical learning experiences for students and professionals, ensuring they remain at the forefront of HVAC technology. The grand opening ceremony of ITUM-LG-Abans air conditioning academy took place on March 27, 2024. This momentous occasion marked a new chapter in technical education and research at our institution. Adding to this excitement, LG Electronics unveiled its latest technical innovations, including groundbreaking product launches, at the ITUM. This exclusive event was attended by industry experts, academia, and representatives from South Asian regional countries, reinforcing ITUM's position as a hub for advanced technological training and innovation.

ITUM and MAS Bodyline Forge Stronger Research Partnerships

In a significant step toward enhancing industry-academia collaboration, a delegation of academics from the ITUM visited MAS Bodyline (Pvt.) Ltd. on April 3, 2024. The visit was aimed at exploring and establishing research partnerships in the field of textile innovation. The ITUM team engaged in productive discussions with MAS Bodyline executives, focusing on potential collaborative research initiatives that would benefit both institutions.

Session on "Mastering Soft Skills for Success"

On April 8, 2024, the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology organized a specialized session titled "Mastering Soft Skills for Success" at the Z0 725 auditorium, designed specifically for Semester I students.

Guest speaker for the session, Mr. Kasun Ranasinghe, Assistant Manager - Manufacturing Excellence at Lion Brewery (Ceylon) PLC and a distinguished alumnus, emphasized the importance of communication, leadership, and teamwork for professional success. Students expressed gratitude for his insightful session.

Field visit to Lanka Sugar Company in Sevanagala

Semester IV Chemical Engineering Technology students from the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology visited the Lanka Sugar Company, located in Sevanagala on 26th July 2024. The staff members of the plant guided the students' visit briefing them on the production process, the necessary utility requirements etc. This field visit exposed the students to an actual industrial environment which provided information for their academic work.

Field visit to Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC

On August 1, 2024, Semester 1 students from the Chemical Engineering Technology program at ITUM, accompanied by several staff members, visited the Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC factory in Horana. The industrial visit provided students with valuable practical exposure to complement their theoretical classroom learning. The field visit to Royal Ceramics offered students a firsthand look at industrial ceramic production processes. For Chemical Engineering Technology students, these experiences are particularly valuable as ceramics manufacturing involves several core chemical engineering principles, including chemical processing, heat treatment, and material science.

Hands-On Training in Bra Molding and Injection Molding

General Manager (Technical) of Brandix Apparel (Pvt) Limited, Mr. Dayan Perera conducted a workshop on bra molding and injection molding technologies on August 14, 2024 at the division of Textile & Clothing Technology. This session provided Semester IV students with practical exposure to these specialized garment manufacturing techniques, bridging the gap between theory and industry practice.

Fabric Bonding Workshop by Ardmel (Pvt.) Ltd.

Ardmel (Pvt,) Ltd. introduced Textile & Clothing Technology students to fabric-bonding technology through an interactive workshop on August 15, 2024. Led by Mr. Rasika and his team, the session featured hands-on experience with bonding machines and testing equipment. The workshop not only enhanced technical skills but also inspired students to explore new applications of bonding in garment assembly.

Industrial Visit to CodeGen International (Pvt.) Ltd.

The Division of Information Technology at the Institute of Technology successfully organized an industrial visit for NDT in Information Technology students of the intake 2021 to CodeGen International (Pvt.) Ltd. on September 30, 2024. This visit was aimed at providing students with practical exposure to the corporate IT sector and enhancing their understanding of industry's best practices and the latest technological advancements.

During the visit, students had the invaluable opportunity to experience a real-world working environment at CodeGen, a leading software development company known for its innovative solutions. The event included insightful sessions conducted by industry professionals, who shared their expertise on cutting-edge technologies, software development methodologies, and industry trends.

Students also had the chance to engage in discussions with professionals in the Vega Innovations group, gaining firsthand knowledge on the technologies they have used, expectations and challenges faced during the research and development process. The visit not only complemented their academic learning but also motivated them to align their skills with industry requirements.

Awareness Session on Skill Building

To enhance industrial and career skills, introduce career pathways, and focus on skill building within the dynamic field of Electrical Engineering, several sessions were held for fourth-semester Electrical Engineering students. These sessions were organized in collaboration with the Electrical Engineering academic staff, the Electrical Engineering Club, and valuable industrial resource experts on October 16, 2024.

The inaugural session, led by Lecturer Mr. Manjula Wickramathilake, explored potential areas of growth and essential interpersonal skills, providing a robust introduction to industrial training for electrical engineering students. This awareness session was conducted on October 16, 2024. The program aimed to provide students with valuable insights into the opportunities and requirements of industrial training in the electrical engineering field.

The second session, held on November 4, 2024, focused on 'Substation Construction, Testing, and Commissioning.' It was facilitated by Eng. Viraj Nawarathna, a former NDT student and current Project Manager at New Royal Electrical (Pvt.) Ltd. He provided valuable insights into this critical aspect of power system infrastructure, sharing his extensive expertise and practical knowledge on the planning and execution processes involved in building and commissioning substations. Students gained a deeper understanding of technical knowledge, project management challenges in this field, and career-building pathways.

The third program, titled 'Unlock Your Future in Automation Engineering,' was conducted on November 18, 2024, by Eng. Promod Primalka Fernando, a Consultant Electrical and Automation Engineer at INCEE Cement and an accomplished professional with extensive experience. Eng. Fernando captivated the audience with his insightful discussion on career pathways, essential skills, and emerging trends in the automation industry. Students gained invaluable knowledge about industrial automation applications, industry expectations, and skill-building strategies for a competitive edge.

The fourth session, titled 'From Fearsome to Excellent - Transforming the Interview Experience,' was held on November 19, 2024. It targeted the improvement of communication and interpersonal skills for Electrical Engineering technology students. Organized to prepare them for fearless participation in interviews and to showcase their best qualities, the session was led by Eng. Pabasara Padmakumara and Eng. Yogeesha Hindagala, who provided wonderful demonstrations and engaging discussions. Their inspiring presentations offered invaluable insights into interview techniques, arrangement, and career preparation. The event equipped the students with practical tools to confidently face interviews and go beyond classroom learning. By the end of the session, students felt enriched, refreshed, motivated, and better prepared for their interviews and future careers in the industry.

Advanced Practical Session for the Plastic and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka

On October 26, 2024, the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology conducted a specialized practical session for the Plastic and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka. Participants engaged in hands-on training, gaining practical insights into advanced plastic processing techniques and testing methods for dry rubber vulcanizates. The interactive nature of the session enabled attendees to seamlessly connect theoretical knowledge with real-world applications, strengthening their technical expertise. This initiative highlights the Division's commitment to industry collaboration and professional development, reinforcing its role in advancing polymer technology education and training. The session was coordinated by Dr. S.G.J. Perera.

Empowering Futures with Code Terriers and Yarl Salesforce Ohana

On November 2nd, 2024, the Division of Information Technology at the ITUM hosted an inspiring workshop conducted by the Code Terriers team in partnership with Yarl Salesforce Ohana. This engaging event provided students with a unique opportunity to learn, network, and explore career possibilities in the tech world.

The workshop featured a range of activities designed to equip participants with essential skills and insights for a successful career journey, including technology introductions and mock interviews. It was more than just a workshop—it was a platform to connect, grow, and set the foundation for a brighter future.

Industry Consultative Forum 2024: Empowering through Collaboration

The Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology successfully hosted the Industry Consultative Forum 2024 under the theme "Empowering through Collaboration" on November 2 and 9, 2024. The event was structured into two phases—Polymer Technology and Chemical Engineering Technology—to foster academia-industry engagement at the Staff Development Centre of ITUM.

The discussions covered industry-based research, exploring collaborative projects to drive technological advancements; industrial training, focusing on structured internships and competency-based learning; and networking and future collaborations, highlighting mentorships, training workshops, and industry placements. Experts shared insights on employability trends, reinforcing the demand for a skilled workforce. The event concluded with a networking luncheon, strengthening industry connections and fostering future collaborations. With strong participation and appreciation from attendees, the forum successfully laid the foundation for continued academia-industry partnerships, innovation, and workforce readiness.

Guest Lecture on Effective Problem Solving Techniques

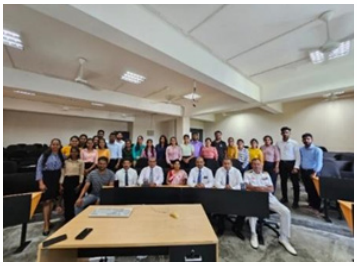
Mr. Sajith Disanayaka, General Manager (Operations) of Brandix Apparel Solutions (Pvt.) Limited, Avissawella, delivered a guest-lecture for the Semester IV students of Division of Textile and Clothing Technology on 6th November, 2024 on 'Effective problem Solving Techniques' and shares his 22 years of industrial experience of his successful journey as a past NDT student.

Workshop on Career Opportunities in the Garment Industry

A special workshop on career pathways in the garment sector was conducted by industry experts Mr. Inthaaj Careem and Ms. Hiranthi Pothupitiya on November 7, 2024. Their session provided valuable guidance on emerging job opportunities and essential skills required in the textile industry.

Mock Interviews Conducted by for Semester IV Electronics and Telecommunication Students

Mock Interviews held on 17 & 18 November 2024, provided Electronics & Telecommunication students with invaluable real-world interview experience, helping them enhance their professional readiness. The event featured a distinguished panel of industry experts and senior professionals who shared their insights and assessed students' technical and soft skills.



The panel included Rear Admiral Wasantha Wiraj Leelarathna, Senior Consultant in Electronics & Telecommunication, Capt. Radika Hettiarachchi, Head of the Department of Electrical, Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering at Kotelawala Defence University, and Dr. (Eng) Tharaka Mohotti, CEO of EAP Broadcasting Company. Also contributing were Eng. Naleen Jayasuriya, General Manager of Program Management at Sri Lanka Telecom, Eng. Harshana Ranmuthugala, Head of Human Resources at Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC, and Eng. Nadun Gunawardana, Director of Enterprise Solutions at Huawei. The panel was further strengthened by Eng. Sanjaya Anurapriya, Consultant Architect at Just In Time Group, Lcdr Samith Sampthsiri, Senior Biomedical Engineer at Kotelawala Defence University, and Eng. Kavinda Manjula, Deputy Director of the Cloud Department at Huawei.

This initiative, organized to bridge the gap between academia and industry, allowed students to gain firsthand experience in professional interview settings. It provided them with constructive feedback on their performance, insights into industry expectations, and guidance on career advancement. The event successfully fostered confidence among students, equipping them with the skills needed to excel in real-world job interviews.

Mastering Your Interview: Top Strategies for Success

A career guidance session was organized by the Division of Polymer & Chemical Engineering Technology on 19th November 2024 to equip students with essential job market skills.

Ms. Nisansala Wijeratne, Manager of Human Resources Services at Yokohama Tyre & Wheel Systems, shared valuable insights on resume building, communication, and interview techniques. Designed for Semester 4 Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology students, the session prepared them for the ITUM Career Fair 2024. Students praised the session's practical approach, gaining confidence in interview success.

Building a Safer Workplace: Best Practices and Innovations in Chemical Handling

The Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology organized a guest lecture on workplace safety on 20th November 2024 for Semester 4 students. Mr. K.G. Shashika Prasad, Manager of Health, Safety, and Environment at LAUGFS Corporation (Rubber) Ltd., shared insights on chemical handling, risk mitigation, and advanced safety technologies. The interactive session provided practical industry knowledge, enhancing students' confidence for their future careers.

EMPREZA 2024: A Triumph of Leadership and Teamwork at ITUM

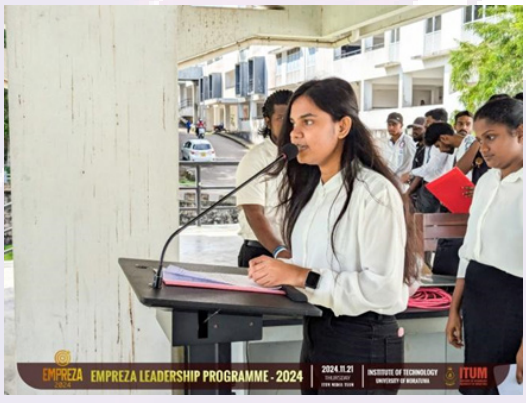
The Semester II students of the Textile, Chemical and Polymer, Civil Engineering Technology, and Maritime Studies Divisions of the ITUM, organized the second edition of the "EMPREZA" leadership event series on the 21st of November 2024 at the university premises. The event, a continuation of the highly successful EMPREZA 2023, was executed as the final project for the IS1205 Sports Studies module.

EMPREZA 2024 provided a dynamic platform for students to step outside traditional academic settings and engage in intensive, real-world learning experiences. It focused on fostering leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, effective communication, and decision-making under pressure, equipping participants with skills that extend well beyond the classroom.

The event saw fierce yet friendly competition, with Team Information Technology claiming the championship title. Civil Group 3 secured the 1st runner-up position, while the Maritime Studies Division Group became the 2nd runner-up.

The event was attended by Major General (Rtd.) S.K. Thirunavukarasu RSP VSV USP, the Director of ITUM, Mr. G.G. Jayarathne, BoM member of ITUM, Heads of Academic and Administrative Divisions, as well as academic and non-academic staff.

Students worked tirelessly to organize this remarkable event, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. EMPREZA 2024 not only reinforced the importance of collaboration and leadership but also highlighted the ingenuity and dedication of ITUM students, making it a resounding success.

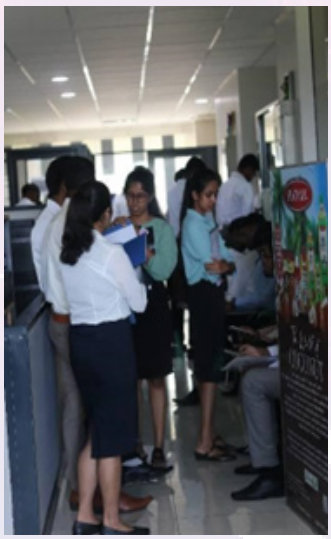


ITUM Hosts Career Fair 2024: A Resounding Success for Students and Industry

The ITUM successfully hosted its flagship event, Career Fair - 2024, for the third consecutive year on November 22, 2024. Organized by the Industrial Training, Career Guidance, and Post Diploma Education Center of ITUM, the event aimed at securing internship opportunities for students advancing to Semester 5 in January 2025.

The Career Fair witnessed an overwhelming response, with 72 interview panels from 48 leading Sri Lankan companies participating. This impressive turnout highlighted the industry's keen interest in engaging with ITUM's talented student cohort. Students enthusiastically took part in interviews, showcasing their readiness to meet the demands of the professional world.

Academics at ITUM expressed satisfaction with the event's outcomes, noting the positive feedback received from industry representatives. Many interview panels commended the students for their performance, and professionalism. This encouraging feedback underscores the importance of ITUM's ongoing investment in soft skill development programs for its students.



The event not only provided students with invaluable exposure to real-world hiring processes but also strengthened ties between ITUM and leading firms across diverse industries. The success of Career Fair - 2024 is a testament to ITUM's commitment to nurturing employable, industry-ready graduates and fostering strong academia-industry collaboration.

Field Visit to Yokohama TWS Lanka (Private) Limited: Bridging Theory and Practice

On 27th November 2024, the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology, organized an enriching visit to the Yokohama factory for the Semester II Polymer students. During the visit, students explored advanced tire manufacturing processes, including rubber compounding, molding, and quality control. Industry experts provided valuable insights, seamlessly connecting theoretical concepts with real-world applications. This visit not only inspired the students' future career aspirations but also highlighted the abundant opportunities in the dynamic polymer industry. The Division expresses sincere gratitude to the Yokohama team for their warm hospitality.

Panel Discussion on Energy Sector

Electrical engineering Club, ITUM successfully conducted Voltvision 2024 - Panel discussion on Energy Sector issues, solutions & challenges in Sri Lanka on 3rd December 2024, bringing together industry leaders, academic experts to share their knowledge and experiences.

Special guests for the discussion, Prof. Rahula Attalage Pro Vice chancellor (Academic) Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIT), Dr. Tilak Siyambalapitiya Chairman, Ceylon Electricity Board. Prof.Asanka Rodrigo, Professor Department of Electrical Engineering University of Moratuwa. Eng. Harsha Wickramasinghe, Deputy Director-General, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority & Moderated by Eng. Manjula Wickramathilaka, Lecturer Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa. Sponsored by Platinum "First Energy", Silver WindForce & LTL Transformers. Media Sponsored by Sirasa TV, Sri Lanka Rupavahini & Hiru News.

Students and others actively participated by posing questions to the panelists & gaining practical advice and guidance tailored to their interests and aspirations. Discussions made on the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing energy challenges, encouragement for young engineers to innovate and drive change within the sector and also insights into the future of energy in Sri Lanka and beyond, emphasizing the role of technological advancements.

Field Visit to DSI Samsons Rubber Products, Bataduwa, Galle and Samson Compounds (Pvt.) Ltd. (PVC Plant)

Semester IV students participated in an enriching field visit to DSI Samsons Rubber Products in Bataduwa, Galle, and Samson Compounds (Pvt.) Ltd.'s PVC plant on 4th December 2024. The trip provided a valuable opportunity to explore the manufacturing processes behind products like tires, shoe soles, and slippers. Students gained insights into the rubber and PVC industries, leaving inspired and better equipped for their future careers.

Field Visit to the Colombo Ice Company (Pvt.) Ltd.

Field visits offer valuable experiential learning opportunities for students, enhancing their future career prospects and academic achievements. On 6th December 2024, Semester IV Chemical Engineering Technology students from the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology visited the "The Colombo Ice Company (PVT) Ltd". Accompanied by academic staff members from the Division, the students were guided through the visit by the staff members of the company.

Industry Insights for Semester IV Polymer Students at LAUGFS Corporation (Rubber) Ltd.

On December 6, 2024, the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology, led Semester IV Polymer students on a field visit to LAUGFS Corporation (Rubber) Ltd., a leader in solid tyre manufacturing. The visit provided hands-on exposure to key processes such as rubber compounding, molding, curing, and quality assurance. Industry experts shared insights on product development and market trends, enhancing students' understanding of polymer applications. The Division expresses its gratitude to LAUGFS for their support in shaping future polymer technologists.

Field Visit to 'The Residence Kotte' Site by ICC (Pvt.) Ltd.

The Division of Civil Engineering Technology organized a field visit on 9th and 16th December 2024 to the construction site of the twin apartment complex, 'The Residence Kotte' located in the Thalawathugoda region. Both the client and contractor for the project were International Construction Consortium (Pvt.) Ltd. (ICC), one of Sri Lanka's leading construction companies.

The primary objective of this visit was to provide students with practical exposure to construction sites, standard industry practices including safety regulations, and the latest technologies.

Insights into Marketing and Merchandising

Mr. TAG Roshan Priyadarshana, General Manager (Marketing and Merchandising) of Chorka Textile Limited, Dhaka, Bangladesh delivered a guest-lecture for the Semester IV students of Division of Textile and Clothing Technology on 11th December, 2024 on 'Marketing and Merchandising' and share his 15 years of industrial experience of his successful journey as a past NDT student, during his short stay in Sri Lanka.

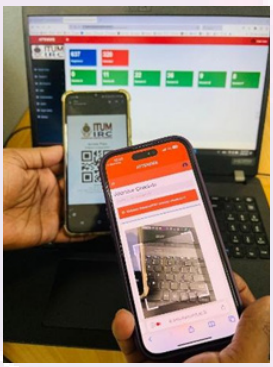
Initiating LG-branded Air Conditioning (AC) Academy at ITUM

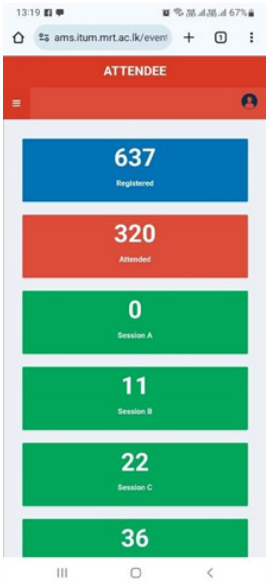
Further strengthening our collaboration with LG, the newly established LG-branded Air Conditioning (AC) Academy at ITUM served as a dedicated training center. This facility focused on equipping students, technicians, and industry professionals with specialized skills in the installation and maintenance of LG's latest air conditioning technologies. The training programs provided hands-on experience, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and industry requirements.

The Division of Mechanical Engineering Technology remained committed to fostering innovation, industry partnerships, and excellence in technical education. We look forward to another year of groundbreaking advancements and continued success.

Streamlining Conference Experience with New Attendee Registration and Check-in System

The Systems Management Unit (SMU) successfully developed and implemented an attendee registration and Check-in System for the 3rd International Research Conference of the ITUM, held on 18th of December 2024. This new system was designed to enhance efficiency and convenience for both attendees and organizers, ensuring a smooth and professional experience throughout the event.





Once registered, attendees received a unique QR code via email, which served as their digital pass for the conference. This QR code allowed them to check in effortlessly at the main event and individual sessions by presenting it at the registration and check-in tables. The swift scanning process minimized waiting times and reduced paperwork, making the experience more pleasant for attendees.

The system was also equipped to generate detailed attendance reports, providing organizers with valuable insights into participation across different tracks and sessions. This feature significantly simplified post-event analysis.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION AND RETIREMENTS

Newly Appointed Head of the Division for the Division of Civil Engineering Technology

Dr. Buddhika Weerasinghe was appointed as the Head of the Division of Civil Engineering Technology at the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa (ITUM), with effect from August 1, 2024. Prior to this, he was promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade II) on September 9, 2023, in recognition of his dedication to teaching, research, and industry collaboration.

Dr. Weerasinghe's academic journey is marked by a commitment to advancing civil engineering education. His leadership is expected to foster innovation and academic growth within the division, enhancing the quality of education for future engineers.

Promotion to the Post of Associate Professor

In July 2024, Dr. Bhadranie Thoradeniya received her promotion to the position of Associate Professor at the Division of Civil Engineering Technology and became the first academic member in the history of ITUM to surpass the academic progression beyond Senior Lecturer.

Associate Prof. Bhadranie joined the University of Moratuwa in 1984 as an Engineering Teaching Assistant after completing the National Diploma in Technology and with considerable post-qualifying industry experience. In her career progression, she has acquired many postgraduate qualifications: Post-Graduate Diploma in Applied Hydrology (Moratuwa), MSc in Hydraulics (Distinction – IHE, The Netherlands), MPhil (Technical Education) (OUSL) and PhD (Civil Engineering) (Moratuwa).

Promotion of Mr. W.L.S. Maduranga

Mr. W.L.S. Maduranga from the Division of Civil Engineering Technology was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II) with effect from 10th September 2023.

Appointment as the President to the IIESL

Eng. Associate Prof. Bhadranie Thoradeniya in the Division of Civil Engineering Technology was inducted as the 31st President of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) for the session 2023/2024 on 22.07.2023 at the 45th Annual general Meeting and completed her term on 29.06.2024. The IIESL, which is incorporated by the Act no 64 of 1992 of the Parliament, is the professional institution of the engineering diploma holders of Sri Lanka, namely NDT, HNDE, NDES and other similar qualification holders.

Prior to being inducted as the President, she had served for the Council of Management of the institution since around 2000, in various capacities including Editor, Honorary Secretary, Vice-President and President Elect. She is also the second female to hold this prestigious position.

Academic Achievements and Recognitions

Mrs. Ruwini Chathurangi secured first place in the prestigious 3MT competition organized by the University of Moratuwa, demonstrating excellence in research communication. Additionally, Dr. Ruchira Wijesena and Dr. Nadeeka Tissera received multiple research grants, furthering the division's contributions to textile research and innovation.

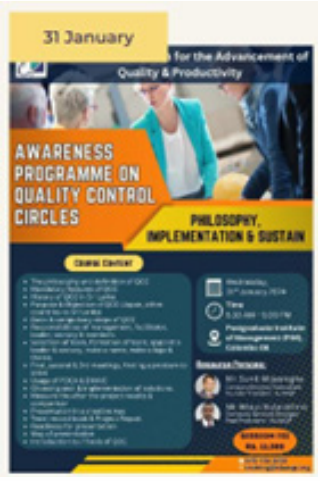
The Division of Textile and Clothing Technology continues to push boundaries, fostering industrial collaborations, research excellence, and student engagement. With an eventful 2024 behind us, the division looks forward to another year of growth, innovation, and impactful contributions to the textile sector.

ITUM Participate in PRISL's 2024 Convocation Ceremony

On July 18, 2024, Dr. (Mrs.) Chandani Somarathne, Dr. Sudarshana Perera, and Ms. Amali Weerakoon—esteemed lecturers from ITUM's Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology—participated in the academic procession of the Plastics & Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka's (PRISL) convocation ceremony at BMICH. Their involvement underscored ITUM's commitment to academic excellence and industry collaboration, marking a significant milestone for the graduates.

Elevating Quality Culture: QCC Awareness Programme

Three ITUM representatives—Dr. (Mrs.) Smanthi Mathugama, Dr. (Mrs). Kaushika Premarathne, and Ms. Amali Weerakoon—attended a Quality Control Circles Awareness Programme, organized by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP) at the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), Colombo 08, on 31 January 2024 (8:30 AM–5:00 PM). The workshop explored QCC philosophy, the evolution of Organizational Quality Circles in Sri Lanka, and key topics such as QCC's purpose (with global comparisons), team formation, problem-solving methods (POCA & DMAIC), and presentation techniques including the 7 Tools of QCC. Expert speakers Mr. Sunil Wijesinghe, Company Director, Founder President – SLAAQP and Mr. Wipul Kularathna, Company General Manager, Past President –SLAAQP inspired attendees to elevate quality in their work environments.



Seminar on Precision Testing Solutions for the Rubber & Tyre Industry

On March 18, 2024, Ms. Amali Weerakoon and Dr. Sudarshana Perera from ITUM's Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology participated in a seminar on "Precision Testing Solutions: Advanced Instruments for Quality Control and R&D in Rubber & Tyre Testing."

Held at Courtyard by Marriott, Colombo, the event was organized by TechnoBiz Lanka in collaboration with Metravib, Gibitre Instruments (Italy), and Venture Instrumentation Technologies (India). Experts from Italy and Sri Lanka discussed cutting-edge testing technologies, highlighting their crucial role in quality control and research.

RESEARCH, CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS

3rd International Research Conference of ITUM-2024

The 3rd International Research Conference of the ITUM (ITUM-IRC 2024) was successfully held on December 18, 2024. This year's theme, "Exploring New Frontiers: Innovative and Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to Sustainable Engineering Practices," underscored the critical importance of sustainability in engineering. The conference provided an exceptional platform for researchers, academics, industry professionals, and students to engage in meaningful discussions and share valuable insights. Participants explored innovative solutions and cross-disciplinary strategies aimed at addressing contemporary sustainability challenges in the field.

The opening ceremony, held at the Dr. TAG Gunasekara Multifunctional Hall, welcomed over 300 attendees, including distinguished academics, researchers, industry representatives, administrative staff, and students. The conference featured five technical sessions, where 40 research papers were presented under five key tracks:1. Sustainable Infrastructure and Mechanical Systems, 2. Renewable Energy Systems and Smart Grid Technologies,3. Sustainable Materials and Green Manufacturing Processes, 4. Digital Solutions for Sustainable Engineering and 5. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Sustainability in Education. The Chief Guest, Prof. U.P. Nawagamuwa from the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, highlighted the significance of sustainable engineering in shaping the future. A keynote address by Dr. Ishara Dharmasena, Associate Professor at the Wolfson School of Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering, Loughborough University, England, captivated the audience. His presentation, 'Super-Smart Textiles: A Cross-Disciplinary Journey Towards Future Wearable Technologies', explored cutting-edge innovations that bridge engineering and technology. Adding further depth to the event, Associate Prof. (Mrs.) W. B. M. Thoradeniya, Senior Lecturer in the Division of Civil Engineering, ITUM, delivered a special speech on 'Multiple Intelligences and Sustainability in the Engineering Industry', offering valuable insights into the intersection of education and sustainability.

A highlight of the conference was the poster session presented by semester 3 students of 2021/ 2022 batch, where they showcased their innovative research findings and creative ideas. This interactive session not only highlighted the students' hard work but also encouraged engagement and dialogue among participants.

A total of 32 staff members and 24 students from the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa proudly presented their research findings through 30 publications at the 3rd International Research Conference of ITUM – 2024, showcasing the institute's growing research culture and academic excellence.

AI and Society at the 12th IIMS Conference

Dr. (Mrs.) Srimala Perera, VP - Technology (2023–2025), delivered the deliberation at the 12th IIMS Conference, Phnom Penh, Cambodia held on 25th October 2024, sharing insights on the conference theme, "Artificial Intelligence and Society: Adoption, Implementation, and Regulation". Dr. (Mrs.) Mathugama, from the editorial committee, also presented a special note reflecting on the same theme.

Rising Scholars: Polymer Technology Students Showcase Excellence at the International Research Conference

Two outstanding Semester VI Polymer Technology students, Tharindu Jayasanka and Chamodani Rumesha, made a remarkable achievement by presenting their research at the main session of the 3rd International Research Conference held on December 18, 2024, at the TAG Gunasekara Multifunctional Auditorium, ITUM. Their participation at such a prestigious platform is a testament to their dedication and the academic excellence fostered within the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology. This milestone serves as an inspiring benchmark for junior students, encouraging them to engage in successful research projects and contribute to advancements in the field of polymer technology.

STAFF , STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Representing Excellence: ITUM at INCO 2024

Ms. Amali Weerakoon, Head of the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology, participated in the inaugural sessions of INCO 2024. INCO 2024 is the premier industrial exhibition organized annually by the Institution of Incorporated Engineers Sri Lanka, held at BMICH on 12, 13, and 14 January 2024.

Polymer Technology Secures Runner-Up Honors at INCO 2024

At INCO 2024—the premier industrial exhibition organized annually by the Institution of Incorporated Engineers Sri Lanka and held at BMICH from 12th to 14th January 2024—the polymer technology discipline secured second place in the Invention Category. The research team, comprising five members (Pramod, Sahanaz, Nafees, Pirunthika, and team leader Tharinidu Jayasanka), was expertly guided by lecturers Ms. Amali Weerakoon and Dr. Sudarshana Perera from the division. Their achievement highlights the department's commitment to innovation and excellence in advancing polymer technology.

"Let's Move Together - Move Your Body and Heal Your Mind"

"Let's Move Together - Move Your Body and Heal Your Mind" workshop, held on March 26, 2024, with Ashley Fargnoli (Fulbright Scholar Alumna, MA Dance/Movement Therapy and Counselling) and Mrs. Lakni Kumarasiri offered participants (ITUM admin and academic staff) a relaxing, stress-relieving experience, receiving highly positive feedback for its impact.

Be a Guiding Light – A Motivational Session for ITUM Staff

On April 4, 2024, the ITUM Staff Welfare Society, organized an inspiring motivational session for all ITUM staff under the theme "Be a Guiding Light." The session aimed at empowering and educating members on leading a successful and fulfilling life while embracing their responsibilities and uplifting others through exemplary leadership.

The session was conducted by Mr. Sudath Fernando, a renowned sustainability advocate, award-winning public speaker, and corporate humorist. With over 1,500 hours of talk time, he has addressed diverse audiences, earning admiration as a maestro of inspiration. Currently serving as the Director of Finance at ATG Ceylon (Pvt.) Ltd, Mr. Fernando was honored with a plaque for his valuable contribution.

During his talk, he shared profound insights and practical techniques to navigate stressful situations with courage and resilience. The session proved to be highly meaningful, leaving attendees inspired and equipped with strategies for personal and professional growth.

Sustainability and Circular Economy Workshop

Dr. Kanchana Dissanayake, with coordination by Dr. (Mrs.) Srimala Perera, led a thought-provoking workshop on sustainability trends and the circular economy on July 21, 2024. Participants engaged in discussions on sustainable textile production and waste reduction strategies, addressing pressing environmental concerns within the industry.

3rd Course on Total Stations Successfully concludes at ITUM

The ITUM successfully conducted the 3rd Short Course on Total Stations & GNSS, which took place from July 21, 2024, to August 4, 2024. This five-week comprehensive training program provided participants with hands-on learning experience in modern surveying techniques, equipping them with essential skills for precise field measurements and data processing. With the rapid advancements in surveying technology, the course aimed at bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring that professionals and students alike could stay updated with the latest industry practices.

The course was meticulously structured to cover both fundamental and advanced concepts related to Electronic Distance Measurement (EDM) instruments, Total Stations, and Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). Participants were introduced to the basic theory of Total Station operations, including the development and transformation of EDM instruments, key components of Total Stations, and essential functionalities. This foundational knowledge set the stage for subsequent practical sessions that enabled learners to apply theoretical concepts effectively in real-world scenarios.

Throughout the program, participants engaged in field applications of Total Stations, learning how to conduct traverse surveys, angular and distance measurements, and various calculations for closed-loop and closed-link traverses. Additionally, they gained experience in detailed surveying, where they extracted field data and produced comprehensive survey plans using Autodesk Civil 3D software.

One of the highlights of the course was the practical session on setting out techniques, where participants learned how to obtain coordinates from contour maps and apply them in setting out alignments for roads, buildings, and other infrastructure projects.

The program also featured an introduction to advanced features of Total Stations and GNSS applications, including resection, missing line measurement (MLM), remote elevation measurement (REM), and area calculations. A live demonstration of GNSS technology further enriched the learning experience, allowing participants to familiarize themselves with cutting-edge satellite-based positioning systems used in modern geospatial studies.

129th Educational Meeting of the ITUM Toastmasters Club

The ITUM Toastmasters Club embraced a vibrant new beginning, reigniting its mission to empower individuals with exceptional communication and leadership skills. With renewed energy and enthusiasm, the club welcomed members to the 129th Educational Meeting which was held on 12th September 2024, into a supportive environment designed to foster growth and confidence. The fresh start featured innovative meeting formats, engaging activities, and inspiring speeches, creating a space for learning and collaboration. The meeting was graced by the Director of ITUM, Area Director of Division I and a past Region Advisor of Toastmasters International. This new chapter symbolized a commitment to excellence, encouraging every member to unlock their potential and achieve their personal and professional goals.

Career Preparation Sessions for Semester 4 Students: CV Writing and Interview Skills

A session on "Paving the Way to Your Dream Job, CV Writing and Interview Preparation" was successfully conducted for all Semester 4 students on 7th and 10th of October 2024. The sessions were led by Nadisha Deheragoda, General Manager- Human Resource, Brandix who brought a wealth of experience in reviewing CVs, conducting interviews across various career paths, and selecting the right candidates using specialized tools.

'Facilitating Teaching & Assessing' – A teacher training session

Teacher training sessions on 'Facilitating Teaching & Assessing' for ITUM temporary academic staff (specifically for contract, temporary, and visiting staff) were held on 10th October 2024 and 21st November 2024. Mrs. D. W. D. R. Chathurangi was the resource person of the 'Facilitating Teaching' session and Dr. (Mrs.) Samanthi Mathugama was the resource person of the 'Facilitating Student Assessing' session. More than 25 contract and temporary academic staff participated the sessions.

Semester V Polymer Technology Student Shines at TechnoBiz Rubber Week 2024

At TechnoBiz Rubber Week 2024, held at the Ramada Hotel, Colombo, Tharindu Jayasanka, a Semester V Polymer Technology student, successfully presented his research findings to a distinguished audience from 22nd to 25th October 2024. His work received high praise from academics and industry professionals, highlighting his dedication and the academic excellence fostered within the program. This achievement reflects the growing recognition of ITUM's Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology division and its commitment to nurturing future industry leaders.

ITUM Team's Visit to Hanoi Industrial Textile Garment University

A delegation from ITUM, led by Dr. (Mrs.) Srimala Perera and including Dr. Shamain Saparamadu and Dr. Manoja Samaradiwakara, visited Hanoi Industrial Textile Garment University (HTU) in Vietnam on October 28, 2024. Discussions focused on student and faculty exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and the possibility of signing an MoU to formalize academic collaboration. This visit strengthened ITUM's global network and opened avenues for international partnerships in textile education and research.

Dextron Robotic Competition

The Division of Electrical, Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering Technology at ITUM successfully held "DEXTRON" robotic competition on December 7, 2024. This highly competitive event showcased the fastest line-following robots, bringing together talented teams from various Sri Lankan universities to demonstrate their engineering skills, innovation, and problem-solving abilities in the field of robotics.

The competition attracted significant participation from leading universities across the country, creating an exciting platform for students to apply their technical knowledge in electronics, automation, and embedded systems. Each team designed and built autonomous robots capable of accurately and efficiently following a predefined track, testing their precision, speed, and adaptability.

After a series of intense and competitive rounds, the University of Moratuwa secured first place, showcasing outstanding design and control systems. The University of Peradeniya emerged as the first runner-up, displaying impressive performance and technical expertise, while the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) claimed the second runner-up position.

The event not only encouraged technical excellence but also fostered collaboration, teamwork, and a spirit of innovation among students. It provided a valuable opportunity for participants to engage with peers, gain hands-on experience, and enhance their robotics and automation skills. Dextron 2024 was a testament to ITUM's commitment to promoting engineering talent and cutting-edge technological advancements among future professionals.

Textile Industry Forum and Fellowship

The Division of Textile and Clothing Engineering Technology hosted the Textile Industry Forum on December 13, 2024, bringing together over 20 industry representatives to discuss future collaborations and advancements in textile technology. The event concluded with a fellowship gathering, reinforcing relationships between academia and industry leaders.

The Emcee Master Competition

"The Emcee Master competition" organized by the ITUM English club was a resounding success. This competition was a great opportunity for the students to show their talents of compering, charisma and stage presence.

After auditioning over a hundred students from all disciplines, twenty-five students with exceptional emceeing prowess were selected for the final round. The final round of "The Emcee Master Competition" was held on 20th December, 2024. It was filled with energy, enthusiasm, and remarkable performances. The winners who demonstrated exceptional compering skills were selected by the judges under the two themes of "The Emcee Master – All Rounder Category" and "The Emcee Master – Sports Category". The winners got the opportunity to host the "The Best Presenters' and The Best Speakers' Competition" held on 10th January, 2025.

Fostering Camaraderie: Faculty-Student Engagement Initiatives

Ms. Amali Weerakoon and Dr. Sudarshana Perera, esteemed lecturers from the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology, organized a series of informal gatherings for their students on 16th August, 23rd August and 1st September 2024. These events significantly strengthened the teacher-student relationship, fostering a supportive and collaborative academic environment. Such initiatives are known to enhance student engagement and contribute positively to academic success.

NDT CLUSTER – Annual Get-Together of Civil Engineering Technology Students

The 'NDT CLUSTER', the annual get-together of Civil Engineering Technology students, was held on 30th November 2024. Current and retired staff members of the division participated as guest invitees. Past NDTians from various batches also attended the event. The gathering was organized by the NDT 2021 Batch.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Celebrating the Advent of Excellence: ITUM's Grand New Year 2024 Commencement

On January 1, 2024, the ITUM community united for a grand New Year commencement, organized by the ITUM Staff Welfare Society. The ceremony honored tradition with Buddhist worship, Pirith chanting, oil lamp lighting, and the National Anthem, followed by a solemn tribute to fallen heroes. Religious blessings and the Oath of Public Servants, led by Director Major General (Rtd.) S. K. Thirunavukarasu, set an inspiring tone. His address outlined ITUM's achievements and vision for 2024. A traditional tea party fostered camaraderie, marking the beginning of a year of excellence, success, and global recognition for ITUM.

A Grand New Year Celebration at the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology

On January 1, 2024, the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology, ITUM, hosted a delightful New Year celebration to mark the commencement of another year of excellence. The event, graced by the presence of the Director of ITUM, brought together all division members in a spirit of camaraderie and joy. The celebration fostered strong bonds among colleagues, enhancing teamwork and communication, while symbolizing a promising start to a year dedicated to growth, innovation, and the continued advancement of the division.

ITUM Prime Kids' Singithi Awrudu Utsawaya – A Celebration of Tradition and Growth

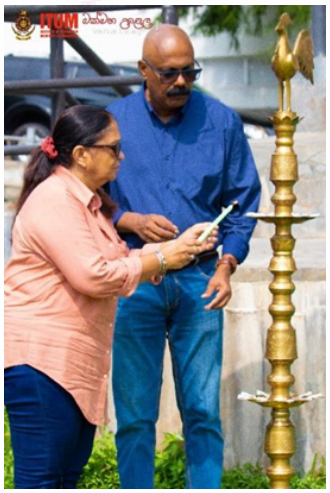
The ITUM Prime Kids Singithi Awrudu Utsawaya was held on April 7, 2024, at the ITUM Kids Preschool and Daycare premises. This vibrant celebration beautifully embraced the rich traditions of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, featuring a variety of cultural events that brought immense joy and festivity to the kids.

Ms. Amali Weerakoon, the president of the ITUM Staff Welfare Society graced the occasion. In her speech, she reflected on the humble beginnings of the ITUM Prime Kids Preschool, which started with just a few children, and admired its remarkable growth under the guidance of a dedicated and talented teaching panel. She also acknowledged the preschool's pivotal role in providing a nurturing learning environment for the children of ITUM staff members. Concluding her speech, she extended her heartfelt wishes for a joyous and successful Singithi Awrudu Utsawaya.

ITUM Bakmaha Ulela 2024 – A Grand Celebration of Tradition and Togetherness

On April 23, 2024, the ITUM Staff Welfare Society organized the vibrant "ITUM Bakmaha Ulela 2024" at the ITUM Grounds. This spectacular Sinhala and Tamil New Year festival brought together ITUM staff members and their families for a day filled with joy, cultural traditions, and unity.

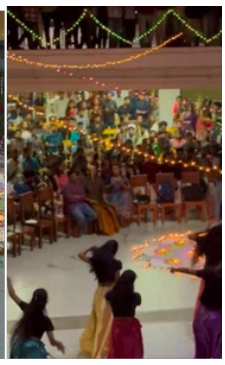
The event featured a wide array of traditional New Year games and activities, including the highly anticipated New Year Prince and Princess competition. Winners of various events were rewarded with exciting gifts, adding to the festive spirit. The celebration fostered teamwork, strengthened bonds among ITUM members, and created lasting memories filled with laughter and joy.



To further enhance the festive experience, all participants were treated to a delicious lunch meticulously organized by the Executive Committee of the ITUM Staff Welfare Society.

ITUM Divali 2024: Festival of Lights

The 2022/2023 batch Tamil students, with the enthusiastic support and participation of Sinhala and Muslim students, organized a spectacular and vibrant event to celebrate ITUM Divali 2024 – the Festival of Lights on 31 October 2024. This celebration beautifully embraced the rich traditions and religious significance of the Tamil community, centered around the theme of "the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance." It was a time of new beginnings, victory, freedom, and enlightenment.



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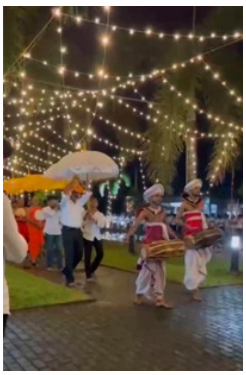
Pirith Chanting and Alms-Giving Ceremony at ITUM: A Night of Spiritual Blessings

With unwavering dedication and leadership, the ITUM Staff Welfare Society, organized the Pirith Chanting and Alms-Giving Ceremony at ITUM on 13th and 14th December 2024. Marking the first such event in nearly five years since March 2020, this grand spiritual gathering, organized in collaboration with the NDT Student Union, brought together students and staff in a deeply enriching religious experience.



The ceremony aimed at invoking blessings for the ITUM community, fostering spiritual well-being, unity, and harmony for the year ahead. The entire ITUM premises were transformed into a heavenly spectacle, adorned with dazzling lights and a beautifully crafted Pirith Mandapa. Venerable Senior Professor Magammana Pannananda Thero led the chanting with a team of revered monks, elevating the spiritual ambiance of the night. The event not only strengthened the bond between students and staff but also reinforced the spirit of collaboration and devotion.

SPORTS NEWS

ITUM Sports Meet 2024: A Triumph of Talent and Teamwork

Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa recently concluded its much-anticipated large-scale sports meet, held from April 29th to May 3rd, 2024. Organized by the semester I students of ITUM who are following Sports Studies, this event served as their main project for the module.

The entire batch was given the opportunity to participate in various sporting activities, including netball, badminton, table tennis, carrom, football, cricket, athletics and volleyball. Divided into teams named Horous, Phonix, Griffin, and Draghar, the students showcased their skills and competitive spirit.

The opening ceremony took place at the ITUM ground on April 29th, followed by four days of intense sporting action. The grand finale and closing ceremony were held at the Diyagama Mahinda Rajapaksha International Stadium on May 3rd, 2024.

The closing ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, including Eng. Puitha Uduwana as the chief guest, Mrs. Muthumali Jayasinghe, Provincial Senior Manager of Bank of Ceylon, as the guest of honor, and Mr. Luxman Wijesooriya, Director of Physical Education Division, University of Moratuwa as a special guest. Guests from Bank of Ceylon, Mrs. Kancahana Perera, Senior Manager from Homagama branch, and Mrs. Ruwani Sewwandi, Manager of the Diyagama branch, also attended the event.
Heads of divisions, academic and non-academic staff members, along with guests from various sectors, graced the occasion to witness the exceptional talent of ITUM students.

The main sponsor of the event, Bank of Ceylon – Bankers to the nation, is acknowledged with sincere gratitude for their generous support, which has made this event possible.

The Director of ITUM, Major General (Rtd.) S. K. Thirunavukarasu RSP VSV USP, and the Head of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, Dr. (Mrs.) D.D.G.A.D.S. Saparamadu, provided unwavering support to ensure the success of the sports meet. A team led by Ms. Shalini Dissanayake, the Lecturer- in -Charge of sports studies, along with a dedicated team of academics and physical education instructors, the students displayed exemplary leadership, unity, and friendship throughout the event.

After days of intense competition, Team Griffin emerged as the deserving champions of the event, with Team Draghar securing the first runner-up position, and Team Horous claiming the second runner-up title.

Congratulations to all participants for their exemplary sportsmanship and dedication, making the ITUM Sports Meet 2024 a resounding success!

ITUM Sports Club Hosts Second Carrom Tournament: Celebrating Sportsmanship and Talent

The ITUM Sports Club recently celebrated a significant milestone by hosting its second Carrom Tournament, the "MORA CARROM TOURNAMENT - 2024," adding yet another chapter to its legacy of fostering sportsmanship and friendship among students. This event, held on the 21st and 22nd of March 2024 at ITUM, served as a platform for students from the 22/23 Batch to exhibit their carrom skills and vie for a chance to represent the university in upcoming competitions.

In contrast to the previous tournament, this one only had single matches, making the games on the carrom board even more exciting and competitive. The vibe was electric as players showed off their skills, hoping to earn a spot on the Moratuwa University carrom team for 2024. This tournament not only provided an avenue for students to demonstrate their talent but also served as a crucial steppingstone for identifying potential members of the university carrom team. In recognition of their outstanding performances, winners of the tournament were awarded presents, symbolizing their achievement and dedication to the sport.

Congratulations to all the participants for their exemplary display of sportsmanship and skill during the "MORA CARROM TOURNAMENT – 2024". May this event inspire future generations of carrom enthusiasts and contribute to the vibrant sporting culture at ITUM.

ITUM Cricket Match 2024 – A Celebration of Team Spirit

On September 13, 2024, the ITUM Staff Welfare Society, led by Ms. Amali Weerakoon, organized the ITUM Cricket Match 2024 at the ITUM Grounds. The event fostered team spirit, camaraderie, and excitement, with the winning team receiving trophies and gifts.

The celebration continued with a DJ night and a delightful dinner at the ITUM Staff Lodge. Ms. Weerakoon and the Executive Committee extend heartfelt gratitude to all sponsors, contributors, and participants for making this event a remarkable success.

Inter-University Taekwondo Championship

The Inter-University Taekwondo Championship, held at the University of Moratuwa Gymnasium, showcased exceptional talent of ITUM students. The women's team, represented by KAD Thathsarani (22 /CH/044) and KRM Jayawardana (22/CI/0116), secured an impressive 5th place finish. Their determination and skill were evident as they competed against top-tier athletes from across the country.

In a remarkable display of strength and technique, the UoM men's taekwondo team, represented by KAN Nethmina (22/CI/0150) of ITUM, triumphed to become the champions of the competition. Their victory reflects the dedication and hard work of the athletes and their coaching staff.

Inter-University Baseball Championship

The Inter-University Baseball Championship was held at Sabaragamuwa University. The following ITUM students who represented UoM baseball team became the runners up.

- H.W.Dilantha Dilshan (21/ ET/ 0369)
- I.E.M. Siriwardana (21/ CI/ 208)
- K.V.M Chamara (22/ PT/0696)
- H.K.G. K.C. Koralage (21/ CH/ 0015)

Inter-University Rugby Championship

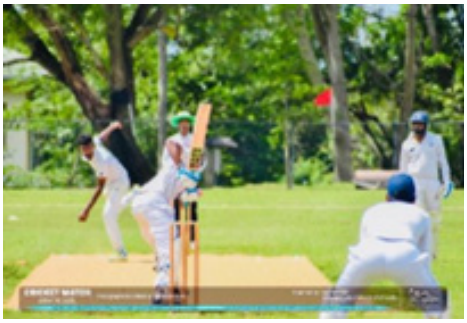
The University of Moratuwa's rugby team delivered a stellar performance at the recent Inter-University Rugby Championship held at the University of Colombo. The team, which included talented players from the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa (ITUM), secured an impressive 3rd place in the competition.

Inter-University Cricket Championship

The University of Moratuwa (UoM) cricket team displayed outstanding skill and determination at the recent Inter-University Cricket Championship, finishing in a commendable 4th place. Competing against top universities across the country, the team put up a strong fight, showcasing their cricketing talent and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

A special mention goes to the following NDT students, who represented UoM cricket team:

- Prabodh Wanigasinghe (21/CI/ 0227)
- Lakshitha Pannala (21/ CI /0250)
- WMAU Wijesekara (22/CH /0048)



University of Moratuwa Shines at the Inter-University Athletic Championship

The University of Moratuwa (UoM) team showcased exceptional talent and determination at the recent Inter-University Athletic Championship, held at the Sugathadasa Stadium. UoM finished in an impressive 5th place, marking a significant achievement in this highly competitive event.

The Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa (ITUM) athletes played a crucial role in the university's success, representing UoM in multiple events, including the 5000m, 400m×4 relay, long jump, triple jump, and 1500m.

The following ITUM students made remarkable contributions to the competition:

- EMTT Edirisinghe (21/CI/0098) – 5000m
- AKG Samansiri (22/ME/0623) – 400m×4 Relay
- R.K.M.A. Fonseka (22/CI/0096) – Long Jump
- A.S. Edirisinghe (22/CI/009) – Triple Jump
- P.V.K.S. Paranavithana (22/ET/0408) – 1500m

Each of these athletes gave their best performances, contributing to the overall success of the UoM team. Their dedication and sportsmanship reflect the strong athletic culture within UoM and ITUM.

University of Moratuwa Excels at the Inter-University Basketball Championship

The University of Moratuwa (UoM) basketball teams delivered impressive performances at the recently held Inter-University Basketball Championship, with both the women's and men's teams securing notable finishes.

The UoM Women's Basketball Team fought hard throughout the competition, ultimately securing 4th place. Their teamwork, skill, and determination were evident as they competed against some of the best teams in the country. The UoM Men's Basketball Team showcased outstanding athleticism and strategy, finishing in an impressive 3rd place. Their strong performances were key to earning a spot on the podium. The following students represented UoM in the basketball championship:

Men's Team:

- AMDC Adikari (22/IT/0452)

Women's Team:

- IM Ramadas (19/ME/625)
- S. Kugajini (20/CI/0137)
- KT Sanjana (22/CI/0196)

Inter -University Volleyball Championship

At the interuniversity volleyball championship held at the University of Peradeniya, University of Moratuwa mes's and women's teams got qualified for the quarter final. The following ITUM students represented the UoM team.

Men:

- RA Ahmed (20/IT/0453)
- WMMN Jayasundara (22/IT/0486)

Women:

- SMAST Sasammandapperuma (21/ CI/ 0197)
- KHANM Aarachchi (20/ TT/ 0741)

Inter- University Football Championship

At the Inter-University Football Championship held at the University of Vavuniya, the following ITUM students represented the University of Moratuwa team, which successfully progressed to the quarter-final round.

- WTA Fernando (21/CI/0104)
- Sakeef Saleem (21/CI/0194)
- M. Thujeeban (22/IT/0541)

Inter university Carrom Championship

MD Fernando of ITUM represented the University of Moratuwa's carom team at the Inter-University Carom Championship held at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura. The team successfully advanced to the quarter-final round.

Inter-University Kabadi Championship

The Inter-University Kabaddi Championship was held at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, with both men's and women's teams participating in the event. The University of Moratuwa men's team successfully qualified for the quarter-final round. The following ITUM students represented the UoM teams.

Men:

- KCS Kumarasiri (22/CI/0133)
- SSN Gamage (21/ PT/ 0696)

Women:

- S. Kugajini (20/ CI/ 0137)

Inter- University Elle Championship

The Inter-University Elle Championship was held at Rajarata University, with both men's and women's teams participating in the event. The University of Moratuwa men's team successfully qualified for the quarter-final round. The following ITUM students represented the UoM men's and women's elle teams.

Men:

- HPT Nikeshala (19/ ME/613)
- RKM Fonseka (22/ CI/0096)
- DMNM Dissanayake (20/ CI/ 0091)

Women:

- KLAA Anushika (21/ET/ 0360)
- GKM Perera (21/ IT/0510)
- AMASC Athapaththu (21/PT/ 0721)
- AM Rathnayake (22/CI/0183)
- PMV Rodrigo (22/ CH/ 0033)
- SAKC Dissanayake (22/ CI/ 0088)
- TI Wijesinghe (22/CH/ 0049)

Inter-University Beach Volleyball Championship

The inter-university beach ball championship was held at South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, MRA Ahamed (20/IT/0435) of ITUM participated in the event representing the university of Moratuwa team.

Inter-University Wrestling Championship

The Inter-University Wrestling Championship was held at the University of Colombo. The following ITUM students represented the University of Moratuwa team and secured 5th place.

- WMAV Wickramasinghe (22/ME/645)
- KRN Kumarage (20/CH/0047)
- HMT Heenkenda (21ET/ 0386)
- BDNA Samaranayaka (21/ET/ 0426)

COMMUNAL & OTHER EVENTS

Honoring Dedication: A Token of Gratitude to the Former Executive Committee

On 10th January, 2024, the ITUM Staff Welfare Society, organized a heartfelt tribute to the former Executive Committee of the society. This event, held in the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology, was a gesture of gratitude for their unwavering dedication to the well-being and development of ITUM staff. The occasion was graced by the Director of ITUM, the society's main advisor, and the Deputy Registrar, who serves as the sub-advisor. In his speech, the Director commended the former committee while congratulating the new team, emphasizing that true success lies in uniting efforts toward a common goal.

Amicitia 2024: A Timeless Bond of Brotherhood across Generations

The Chemical Engineering Technology students of the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology from the 2019/2020, 2020/2021, and 2021/2022 batches proudly organized Amicitia 2024, the annual get-together, on March 23, 2024, at Hotel BONBON, Homagama. This grand celebration symbolized the enduring bond of brotherhood passed down through generations.

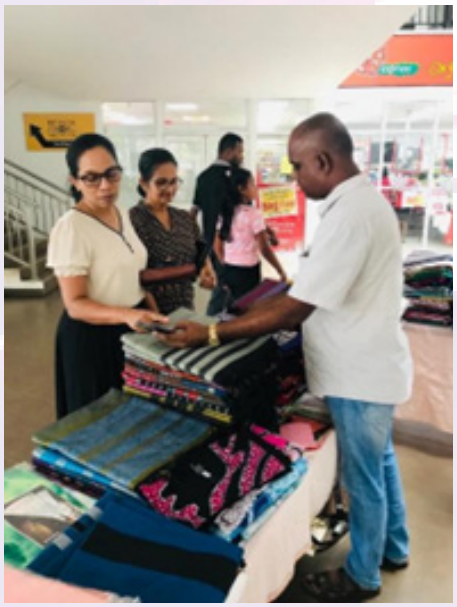
The event was graced by Ms. Amali Weerakoon, Head of the Division, along with the esteemed academic staff of the Chemical Engineering Technology program. Adding to its significance, Mrs. Nilanthi Fonseka, a former Head of the Division, and Mr. Sarath Wijesinghe, a towering figure in the academic realm of the discipline, were specially invited and honored with tokens of appreciation for their invaluable contributions to the division, the institute, and the nation by nurturing exceptional professionals.

The gathering was a vibrant and memorable occasion, enriched by a sumptuous lunch, lively music, captivating songs, and energetic dance performances. The success of the event was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Skill Gate Pvt. Ltd., SL Craft Technology, and Chemlab Lanka Pvt. Ltd. Amicitia 2024 was not just a reunion but a celebration of camaraderie, shared memories, and an unbreakable connection that will continue to inspire future generations.

ITUM Staff Welfare Society Organizes New Year Fair 2024

The ITUM Staff Welfare Society organized the New Year Fair 2024 at the ITUM Shopping Complex on April 9th and 10th, 2024. This vibrant event featured a variety of stalls offering clothing, electrical items, garments, spices, and more, creating an engaging shopping experience for ITUM members as well as visitors from the Diyagama premises.

One of the key highlights of the fair was the opportunity for staff members to purchase electrical goods on installment plans, with payments conveniently deducted from their salaries. This initiative provided significant financial flexibility while allowing them to celebrate the New Year with ease and happiness. The event was a great success, fostering a spirit of festivity and community among ITUM members and the wider Diyagama community.



Spiritual Development: Spreading Kindness through Charity Programs

On July 22, 2024, the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology organized a charity program at Little Sisters of the Poor Elders' Home, Colombo. They spent quality time with the elderly, engaging in heartfelt conversations, music, and dancing, while offering a special dinner, spreading warmth and happiness. Continuing this initiative, on August 30, 2024, Ms. Weerakoon and division members donated essential items and hosted a delightful dinner at Samadhi Orphanage, Veyangoda, bringing joy to the young girls.

On November 5, 2024, the division extended its goodwill by organizing a charity event at Nilwala Sevana Elders' and Disabled Home, creating a meaningful experience of companionship and care. Divisional staff participated wholeheartedly, engaging with residents and offering a special dinner. These initiatives reflect the division's deep commitment to social responsibility and community service, fostering compassion, togetherness, and spiritual well-being. Furthermore, such activities align with ITUM's Strategic Management Plan, contributing to an enhanced and harmonious workplace environment.

A Night of Music and Laughter at ITUM: "Sehelluwa"

On July 29, 2024, the ITUM Staff Welfare Executive Committee organized "Sehelluwa," a delightful musical evening at the ITUM staff lodge. The event featured entertaining comedic dramas performed by participants divided into groups, providing a joyful respite from daily routines. Attendees enjoyed a sumptuous dinner accompanied by refreshments, fostering camaraderie and relaxation following a three-month non-academic strike. The committee extends heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Shiran Maduranga, former Honorary President of the ITUM Staff Welfare Society, and Mr. Sanjaya Maduranga, former Head of the Division of Civil Engineering Technology, for their invaluable support in making the event a resounding success.

A Theatrical Triumph: 'A Day in July 2019' Raises Funds for ITUM Staff Welfare

The ITUM Staff Welfare Society successfully organized a special staging of the renowned drama A Day in July 2019, written and directed by acclaimed playwright Rajitha Dissanayake. This highly anticipated event took place on December 20, 2024, at the TAG Multifunctional Auditorium, ITUM, Diyagama, Homagama, featuring two captivating performances from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The initiative was driven by a noble purpose—to raise funds for the establishment of a long-awaited insurance scheme to support ITUM staff members.

The event's success was made possible by the generous contributions of esteemed sponsors. The Platinum Sponsor was Mr. Ananda Caldera, Managing Director of Global Rubber Industries Pvt. Ltd. The Gold Sponsors included Mr. N.A. Nandasena, Director of Flexi Rubber Compounds Pvt. Ltd., and the LALAN NDT Team. Mr. Sudath Fernando, Director of Finance at ATG Ceylon Pvt. Ltd., supported the event as the Silver Sponsor. Additionally, five Bronze Sponsors lent their invaluable support: Dr. Sunil Mendis, Director of Research and Development at ATG Ceylon Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Mahinda Thennakoon, Director of Kosgulana Hydro Company Pvt. Ltd.; Laugfs Rubber Corporation Pvt. Ltd.; Standard Industries Pvt. Ltd.; and Yokohama TWS Pvt. Ltd.

A Milestone Achievement: ITUM Staff Insurance Scheme Officially Established

The long-awaited National Insurance Trust Fund (NITF) Insurance Scheme for staff members was officially established on 31st December 2024. The initiative began in 2022 with a musical fundraiser organized by the ITUM Welfare Society to support the scheme.

While the funds raised in 2022 were insufficient, the 2023 Welfare Society continued its efforts, conducting another fundraiser.

In 2024, after an additional fundraising event, the scheme was successfully established. On 31st December 2024, Rtd. Maj. Gen. Shantha Kumar Thirunavukarasu, Director of ITUM, together with Ms. Amali Weerakoon, Honorary President, Mr. Ruwan Sandamal, Honorary Secretary, Mr. Ushan Budhdhika, Honorary Vice President, and Mr. Manoj Kannangara, Mr.Dhammika Lakmal Executive Committee member, signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the NITF at the Director's Office. This momentous occasion was honored by the presence of Mr. Nuwan Dissanayake, Assistant Manager - Marketing, along with Ms. Sajani Iddagoda and Mr. Irosha Madushan, representatives from NITF's Marketing Department.

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