

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA



ITM NEWS

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Message from the Director



I wish to congratulate the Newsletter Editorial Committee for being successful in bringing out the first ITUM Newsletter. This Newsletter presents the activities of the ITUM and it plays an important role in providing greater exposure to the achievements of the students, staff and divisions of the Institute.

The Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa (ITUM) was established in year 2000 to conduct the National Diploma in Technology (NDT) program. ITUM co-existed within the University of Moratuwa premises for 17 years as its only affiliated Institute before the relocation at Diyagama, Homagama in year 2017.

The relocation has gifted the ITUM with a state-of-the art building complex. Fully furnished lecture halls and well equipped laboratories have enhanced the capability of the Institute in fulfilling its national commitment of providing accessible, flexible and efficient technological education and skills training to the Sri Lankan youth.

I would take this opportunity to invite you to join the ITUM Newsletter reader group and to welcome your inputs to future Newsletters as news and/or views.

Once again the determination of the Editorial Committee to accomplish the goal of printing the first ITUM Newsletter is greatly admired. Wish you success in all future Newsletters.

I wish you good luck!
Mrs. M. M. P. D. Samarasekara
Director
ITUM

Editors' Message

It is a matter of pride as well as pleasure to present before our readers the maiden issue of the Institute's Newsletter. We feel honoured for the faith reposed in us for performing the role of editors of ITUM News.

We have put whole - hearted endeavors to give a complete view of laudable achievements of different divisions of our Institute. Through further issues of ITUM News, we do hope that we will come up to the expectations of our readers.

Your constructive suggestions are always solicited. We welcome your valuable comments which may be mailed at library@itum.mrt.ac.lk

Vision

To be a centre of excellence in Technological Education.

Mission

To be a dynamic technological institute in the region and actively contribute to the educational, economic and social advancement of Sri Lankan community by:

- Providing accessible, flexible and efficient technological education and skills training to meet the needs of society and the industry.
- Providing an environment for innovation and creativity.
- Formulating an active collaboration with the industry, business and the community for career opportunities.
- Enhancing social and economic pathways and opportunities for young people.

Divisional News

Workshop on Surveying and Levelling

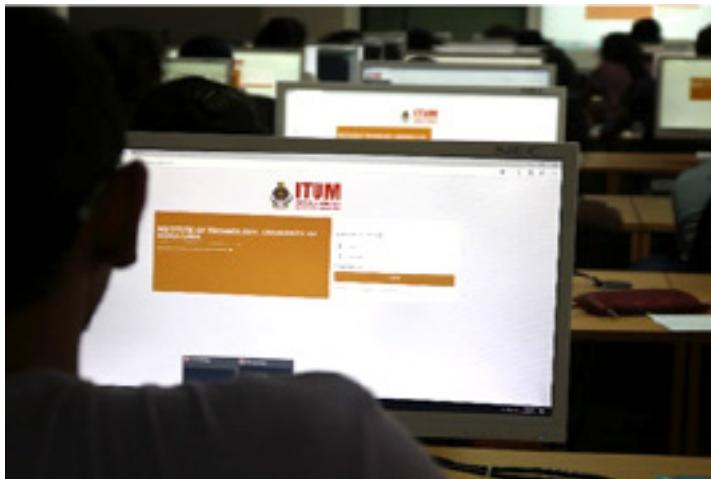
Engineering is a field that is frequently being updated with technological advancements and innovations. Therefore, it is imperative that technical personnel and employees working in the field of engineering continuously update their knowledge and competencies based on latest technologies.

A workshop on Surveying and Levelling was organized by Mr. Buddhika Weerasinghe and Mr. Udara Bulathsinhala, lectures attached to the Division of Civil Engineering Technology for the academic and the non-academic staff of ITUM from 1st to 3rd of June 2018 at the ITUM. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. G.S Gurusinghe, Former Senior Lecturer attached to the University of Peradeniya and Ms. A.M.T Nadeeka, a graduate of the Faculty of Geomatics, University of Sabaragamuwa.



The workshop trained the academic staff on the precise use of modern surveying instruments for higher accuracy which included permanent adjustments, field methods, modern surveying methods like GPS and GIS while the non-academic staff received training on the caring and maintenance of the instruments.

E-Learning through MOODLE



ITUM has taken the initiative to set up an online educational platform that provides custom learning environments to streamline teaching and learning process. Using MOODLE (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) platform facilitators now share materials online with the students, administer assignments and track students' progress. The Centre for IT Services (CITeS) attached to the University of Moratuwa, being the IT arm of the ITUM is extending its continuous support in managing MOODLE site and providing training for the academic staff members of the ITUM.

ESL Classroom Goes Digital

The language lab cum activity room fledged with desktop computers, a multimedia projector and internet facilities has now succeeded in transforming English language learning at ITUM into a digital classroom promoting independent learning opportunities through audiovisual activities and task based learning.

In partial fulfillment of the English Language Skills Enhancement I module, students submitted portfolios in digital form at the end of the 1st semester. The portfolio included compositions and journal entries completed during their practical sessions spent in the language laboratory. This task was initiated with a view of fostering reflective and free writing skills in the students while at the same time developing their IT and creative skills and enhancing their aesthetic sense. Students' enthusiasm in this activity was aptly demonstrated in their portfolios which were attractively illustrated with images, graphics, photos etc.

A collage of student work from Year 7, featuring various projects and photographs. At the top right is a drawing of Usain Bolt with the caption 'My favourite sportsman' and a short paragraph about him. Below it is a portrait of a smiling man with the caption 'Usain Bolt at 21'. In the center is a drawing of a flag with a mountain peak, with a small caption below. To the left is a drawing of a landscape with a bright sun. At the bottom left is a portfolio cover for 'My Portfolio EGEI to 1105 2018'. The middle section contains several short paragraphs and drawings related to school subjects like Maths and English.

Integration of Aesthetic Studies into Revised NDT Curriculum



In a view to promoting a holistic approach to education, the ITUM has taken steps to introduce aesthetic studies to the revised NDT curriculum. Out of four modules, dance, music, drama and visual arts, it is mandatory for students to select one module either in the first or second semester during the first year. The aim of introducing aesthetic studies module is to open the minds of students to appreciate creative ideas from great minds outside of science and to prepare them for their civic responsibilities.

In partial fulfilment of this module, students organized a stage performance and a visual arts exhibition on 20th of July 2018 under the guidance of the Lecturer-in -Charge of this module, Ms. Lakni Kumarasiri along

with several other practising professionals from each field who are working as Visiting Lecturers.



Special session on Solid Modelling



A special session on Solid Modelling was successfully organized on 13th June 2018 by the Mechanical Engineering Technology Division with the participation of Mr. Janaka Mangala attached to the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa. as the resource person.

Mr. Janaka Mangala explained professional command of SolidWorks software through several case studies for NDT 2nd year Mechanical students. This gave a unique opportunity for students to update their knowledge on product design processes.

Field Visit to CEB

2nd year Marine Engineering students and staff members went on a field visit to CEB power station in Sapugaskanda on 14th June 2018.



Workshop for Workshop Staff

One day workshop on “How to conduct official duty in responsible and efficient manner” was held on 29th June 2018 for the recently recruited workshop staff. Division of Mechanical Engineering Technology has effectively conducted this program with the assistance of several experienced professionals from different disciplines.

The workshop covered the areas such as university system and operations, human resource functions, financial regulations, legal aspects and best practices in relations to smooth functioning of the workshop.

These sessions were conducted by Mr. Somasiri De Silva, Former Registrar, University of Moratuwa; Mr. Nalin Kuruppuarchchi, Deputy Registrar, ITUM; Mrs. Dilrukshi Peiris, Senior Assistant Bursar, ITUM; Mr. K.J Koralage, Visiting Lecturer, ITUM; Mr. K.M Sirisena, Works-superintendent, University of Moratuwa and Mr. M.I.R.T Fernando, Senior Lecturer, ITUM.



Programme on Laboratory Safety

Polymer, Chemical, Textile and Clothing Engineering Technology Division organized an educational programme on Laboratory Safety Management System, “Suraksha” for both academic and non-academic staff members of the division. This educational session was conducted on 22nd of May 2018 by Mr. T. Dodangoda, Senior Lecturer attached to the University of Moratuwa who has 30 years of industrial experience on safety management systems.

The following main areas such as electricity safety, steam safety, bio-safety and chemical safety and accident prevention, planning were emphasized at the workshop



Charity Programme

Seafarers' Coop organized a charity programme for the Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama to mark the International Seafarers' Day in the year 2018. Both Nautical Studies and Marine Engineering Technology students of ITUM actively participated with lecturers in the activity and donated medicine, food and toys to the hospital. This event was held on 24th June 2018.



International Seafarers' Day 2018

Maritime Studies section organized a special programme to celebrate the International Seafarers' Day on 25th June 2018. Capt. Kapila Gunewardena Senior Master, Former visiting lecture of the ITUM, Chief Engineer Chandana Paranagama participated as guest speakers. Director, ITUM, Deputy Registrar, Heads of academic and administrative staff were highly impressed with this programme.



Industry Consultative Forum

The Division of Chemical Polymer and Textile and Clothing Engineering Technology headed by Dr. (Mrs.) Chandani Somaratne organized an industry consultative forum with the objective of obtaining inputs and recommendations from industrial experts and senior academics on the revised chemical, polymer and textile engineering technology curricula.

The first session of the forum was convened by Mrs. Shiranika Jayasooriya, Coordinator of the Textile Division on the 10th May 2018 with the participation of Prof. Chathura Herath attached to the Department of Textile and Apparel Technology, Open University and several other industry experts from Tee Jay Lanka PLC, Acqua (Pvt) Ltd., Bodyline (Pvt) Ltd., Brandix Lanka Ltd., and MAS Active.

The second session was organized on 9th July 2018 with the participation of Dr. Shantha Egodage, Dr. Shantha Walpola and, Mr. Thissa Dodangoda attached to the Department of Chemical & Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa. Along with this team, Mr. Sujeewa Jayawardana Director of the University College of Anuradhapura, Dr. Nimini Liyanage, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayawardanapura and Mrs. Yugantha Piyasada attached to the Plastic and Rubber Institute also participated. Industrial experts from various renowned companies including Dipped Products PLC, Lily Aqua (Pvt) Ltd., LAUGFS Corporation (Rubber) Ltd, Samson Rubber Industries, Camso Loadstar, T.I.P. Holdings (Pvt) Ltd., Enviro Tritech (Pvt) Ltd and MAS Kreena-Synergy also participated and contributed their insights on the revised Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology curricula.

Exhibits at the INCO 2018 Exhibition

Chemical Engineering Technology students who participated in "INCO 2018", exhibition, exhibited a wastewater treatment plant and demonstrated sugar and glove manufacturing processes. In addition, newly developed product compounds such as asphalt concrete using waste plastic modified Bitumen and rubber mat using reclaimed rubber were also exhibited.



Staff Development News

Staff Development Center Goes from Strength to Strength

Dr. Somaratne, Chairperson of the Staff Development Center who firmly believes that learning is a lifelong process organized a series of workshops and knowledge sharing sessions to strengthen the skills and competencies of the academic staff members from June to August 2018. The Workshop on Continuous Assessments in a Semester System convened by Dr. Srimala Perera, Semester 1 Coordinator was conducted on 15th June 2018 for the academic staff members of ITUM by Dr. D. D. D. Suraweera, Dean Faculty of Industrial and Vocational Technology, UNIVOTEC.

An awareness programme on Internal Quality Management System was conducted on 2nd August 2018 by Mrs. Teshila Kandamby, Chair person of the Internal Quality Assurance committee, ITUM. This was followed by a presentation on the implementation of the QA system in the Division of Chemical Polymer Textile and Clothing . Another awareness programme on Examination Paper Setting was conducted by Dr. (Mrs.) Thoradeniya, Head of the Division of Civil Engineering Technology on 13th June 2018 for junior academic staff members of ITUM.

A training Session on Advanced Microsoft Excel was conducted for ITUM academic staff members by Mr. Lakshita Devendra on 9th August 2018 in the Computer Lab of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Sixth Annual Research Symposium on the Theme “Innovation Through Collaboration”

This event was held on 31st of August 2018 for the 6th consecutive year at the Staff Development Centre (SDC) of the ITUM under the guidance of the Director, Mrs. M. M. P. D. Samarasekara. The main objective was to showcase novel knowledge acquired through research under the theme of Innovation through Collaboration. The event was graced by Prof. N. Wickramarachchi Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa as the chief guest. Prof. R. A. R. C. Gopura, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Moratuwa delivered a guest lecture on Grant Opportunities and Information Tools for Researchers. A booklet of extended abstracts was also published in connection with this event.



ITUM Toastmasters

ITUM Toastmasters Club (ITUM TMC) had its charter meeting on 30th July 2018. Distinguished Toastmaster Sameen N Saleem made the educational presentation on the newly introduced ‘Pathways’ programme of the Toastmasters International, and TM Dilrukshi Rajapakshe, Division Director E of District 82 was the Guest of Honour. Mentors of the club Distinguished Toastmaster Shantha Senarath and T. M. Upali Gunawardena also attended the meeting. The President of Horana Toastmasters Club was a guest. Being a corporate club, currently it consists of academics and administrators of ITUM. 20 members have voluntarily joined the club and the membership is open for any ITUM staff member.

The first installation of the ITUM Toastmasters will be held soon.



ITUM Students Showcase Their Innovations at the 16th INCO Exhibition



The annual INCO exhibition, a major event on the ITUM calendar took place from 22nd to 24th of June 2018 at the BMICH, Sri Lanka. Over the years this event has been helping young engineering students to keep abreast with cutting edge technology, ever-changing industry demands, trends, and challenges. Students also get the opportunity to network with an audience ranging from high-level decision makers, senior executives and with the general public. Above all, it gives the students a unique opportunity to display their innovative and workable solutions.

At the 16th INCO industrial and annual trade fair aspiring young engineering students from ITUM showcased their exhibits and innovations.

Out of all the exhibits and the innovations featured at the exhibition, several innovations by ITUM students received the spotlight.

The go-cart designed by the students of the Mechanical Engineering Technology Division caught the eye of the visitors.

Focusing on household food productivity, students from the Textile Engineering Division had invented a fly and insect repellent cloth and an eco-friendly fruit cover which can be used to protect fruits like banana, papaya, watermelon, pineapple from harmful insects providing a practical solution for those who are in the agricultural sector.

Ms. Shainy Thamel, a first-year student attached to the Division of Civil Engineering Technology had developed a modified flexible electrical fence which contained columns with a base fixed to a flexible spring on the ground. Her smart thinking seems to be a solid breakthrough to minimize human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka. She yearns to test a live model in the future with technical and financial assistance from the corporate sector.



Another Civil Engineering student, Mr. Sadun Kodikara, using a drone, an Arduino Uno board, a digital camera, batteries and a Sonar sensor had invented a 'Digital Flying Staff' which can measure relative distances or heights that are beyond the bounds of human reach by sending a wave towards the desired object. This mechanism allows the device to calculate the distance or the height through a reflective curve. This far-sighted young inventor intends to upgrade the device with a digital meter which would allow it to measure

distances up to 300m directly and to develop a mobile app which can display the readings taken by the drone.

Yet another Civil Engineering student, Mr. Dinesh Jayatunga conceptualized a mechanism to cut down the time taken to level a levelling instrument or a theodolite, fixed on a light/heavy weight tripod before taking measurements. With his 'Auto Levelling Machine' surveyors can now place the instrument over the already levelled mechanism and proceed with taking measurements at any place. Dinesh intends to develop the equipment for setting and locating it at a specified point with a laser.

ITUM is proud of all its aspiring innovators who showcased their innovations at the 2018 INCO exhibition.



An Interview with the Mastermind and Visionary Leader of ITUM

Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara, a former Director of ITUM and the Project Director of ITUM Relocation and Development Project is interviewed by Hanoon Umarlebbe – Editor

We meet lots of people in our daily academic life, and these different people we meet have different talents and qualities in them which makes every individual a unique character. Some are very knowledgeable, some are highly skilled, some are well-experienced, some are good administrators, and some others are very good humans! Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara is, in simpler terms, a blend of all the above.



Introduction:

Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara joined the ITUM family as a senior lecturer in Civil Engineering Technology in 2005. After 5 years of its establishment as ITUM he became the Director of the Institute in 2 years' time and served in that capacity for 2 terms from 2007 – 2013. At the end of his tenure as the Director, he was appointed as the project Director for the massive ITUM Relocation and Development Project started in 2014 and completed in 2017. Currently, he is a UGC nominee for the ITUM Board of Management. Thus his connections and contributions to ITUM are manifold.

Being a person with an extraordinary and multifaceted career life with over 40 years of work experience, currently, he is the Chairman of the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka and also a Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara had been the Chairman of Road Development Authority, Road Construction & Development Company of Government of Sri Lanka, National Engineering Research & Development Centre (NERD), Urban Settlement Development Authority, and Construction Industry Development Authority. He was the Director in charge of the Regional Educational Services Division of the OUSL (1987 – 1988), Project Director for the ADB funded Skills Development Project of the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Training (2000 – 2002), and Head of Training Division at the National Apprenticeship Board. He had also served for a short time as a lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering of the National University of Ireland and in the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Dar ES Salaam in Tanzania.

In addition to his academic and administrative experience, he was also actively involved in various professional bodies, societies, unions etc. He was the first General Secretary of All Ceylon Engineering Diplomates Association (ACEDA), President of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Chairman of the IIESL Past Presidents Forum, President of the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa Association of Teachers (ITUMAT), Vice-President of the Moratuwa University Alumni Association, Council Member as well as the Secretary of the Civil Engineering Section and the President of the Student Section of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, Ex-co member and Forum Member of the OPA are just a few to name.

Childhood and Education

Having been born in Colombo district to a teaching couple, his primary and secondary education schools were determined by the workplace of his parents. As such, his schooling started at the age of 3 in a very rural school in Anuradhapura district where the Headmaster was his father, and the only teacher was his mother. Later having achieved double-promotions twice, he sat for the GCE O/L examination in Polgahawela Central College and obtained the best ever results of the school at the age of 14 to become one of the best students in the country from the Mathematics stream at that year. His achievement at GCE O/L took him to Ananda College, Colombo to follow his GCE Adv. Level while his parents were still living in Polgahawela. He, being a famous home-sick person, couldn't focus on his studies physically distanced from his parents. Due to this, he started travelling daily from home to school which was too far for a child. This way, his upper secondary education became a mess. Ultimately, he was not selected to university to study in the engineering faculty.



Q: How did you face challenges in situations where you couldn't achieve what you really wanted?

I was able to achieve everything I wanted except my results at the GCE A/L examinations. Yet, I did not lament about my failure in the exam. Sometimes, you have to take a difficult path or even a path has to be created.

When I was not selected to the university for an engineering degree programme, I joined the then Ceylon College of Technology at Katubedda to follow the NDT course which was offered by the University of Moratuwa. NDT Civil Engineering course became a fascinating field of study for me. I liked all the subjects in it and topped the batch. I took the difficult path.

Q: It's a surprise to know that you were not selected to the engineering faculty, but how did you make it possible to complete a PhD in Civil Engineering?

After the completion of the NDT course, I sat for IESL Part I and II in 1979, topped the batch by obtaining highest overall average over 80%, and became a Chartered Engineer. Then I started following a Post-graduate study programme in engineering at the University of Moratuwa, topped the batch again with over 80% average and completed a Master of Engineering degree at the same university.

I completed another Masters in Engineering at National University of Ireland with a First Class honours and topped the batch with the highest ever overall average of 86% obtained by a student in the previous 25-year history of the degree programme. I continued my Doctoral degree at the same university and awarded a Ph.D in Engineering in 1991.

Q: What has been the secret behind all your successes?

For me, being a continuous learner helps succeed in life. To be a continuous learner, one has to have humbleness, inquisitive mind and observing nature. Respecting and appreciating others, facing challenges, having courage and self-confidence, believing in teachers and what they say are some qualities that help you succeed in what you do.

When I see something good in someone, I deliberately like to have it in me. Similarly, when I see something

bad in someone, I consciously try to drop it at least from that day if I had it in me.

Being self-organized also helps you greatly to succeed.

I was engrossed in my study and learnt for practical purposes. Therefore, I am still able pull out the knowledge and skills I learnt even several decades back and use it in situations where I need it.

Q: Your contributions and affiliations prove that you have been an effective manager in whatever assignment that you undertook. What inspired you most to become an effective administrator?

As I have mentioned to you earlier, both my parents were principals – effective administrators. I still remember the day of my father's retirement from his services at school. I was a young adult by then. On that day, the family too was invited to join the farewell party. There I saw a teacher who had worked under both my father and the mother. I asked her, "Teacher, you have worked with both my parents. Could you tell me in a sentence about both of them?" the teacher thought for a while and told, "Your mother had six eyes, and your father had two hearts". I knew she was right. I deliberately wanted to have both these qualities in me. In addition to my parents, my teachers also encouraged me to see things differently which helped me in shaping me as an effective administrator. A student with an inquisitive mind can collect many things in everything he/she sees. When I started working under eminent engineers like Mr. Manemperi, engineering father figure of the contemporary Mahaveli scheme during my early career period, I learnt a lot through observation. Thus administration came to me by birth as well by deliberate learning.

Q: Is decision making a difficult process and what should be the qualities of a decision maker?

Continuous accumulation of information and mentoring by people are the basic components of decision making. Decision making becomes easy and natural when information is readily available, and when it is combined with creativity, observing power, bravery and more importantly the crude common sense.

When you are to make decisions, anticipate issues and think of solutions for them. Play your game well and you will not lose. Even if something goes wrong, you can still be happy that you did your part well.

As a decision maker, you need to have a clear vision, knowledge, experience and the right attitude. Big issues do not always need big solutions; most of them can be easily settled by a simple 'pencil solution' method. In order to do this, the decision maker should be able to be a leader, not a boss. Leader knows how to do and boss only knows how it's done!



At this point, the Director of ITUM, Mrs. Priyanganie Samarakara entered into the room just after a lecture and joined us. (The interview was conducted in the Director's office).

Get everyone involved in decision making and make them a part of ownership in the decision. You can practise this at home as well. It makes everyone happy giving fruitful results. Yet, as a decision maker, you need to know which part to be given to whom.

Director Mrs. Priyanganie Samarakara expressed her views on this. "Hanoon, I need to tell you here that we had some allocations in the project for staff training. We should have simply given it for a few lecturers for their Masters and PhDs. However, the beauty of the thought of Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara was that all members of

the ITUM should be a part of it, and he told me that it would bring some desired outcomes. As a result, all teachers were able to visit universities in two countries - Malaysia and Thailand - and observed the systems there. The sense of ownership was created and it made things easier for us. Subsequently, making changes to our systems became very easy since everyone had an exposure to see how things were practised in similar places".

Dr. Gunasekara nodded with a smile to what the Director had mentioned.

In decision making, you should be able to challenge the challenge to make the challenge baseless. Then your task will be easier. ITUM Relocation came as a solution to a huge challenge, and all of us are aware of it.

As a leader and a decision maker, encourage others and be happy in others' success, have empathy in those around you. Think of a win-win situation all the time for you and others.

Q: What are your views on teaching?

When I was a child my parents told me teaching is next to priesthood. I share the same thought. I personally think that young lecturers should always remember this. When there are issues related to students on examination, releasing results, inquiry etc., we need to remember that we are doing a noble job.

My parents used to buy all different newspapers at home. They used to tell me that you should be a man with profound knowledge and great information even outside your subject area so that one day your students will accept you better. Further you should be thorough in your own subject. Teachers should become versatile, have the attitude of a priest and be self-organized.

Young academics today are mostly very brilliant. But many of their attitude has to be developed as well. Teaching at any level is an incomparable employment. We should respect others - our superiors, colleagues, students and subordinates. Consciousness of your time and managing the time is important. Help others in every possible way and do good to them like you'll die today. I understand that you joined ITUM as a lecturer after several years of many administrative positions.

Q: How was your experience at ITUM as a lecturer and then as a Director?

(With a broad smile on his face) I joined ITUM in 2005 as a Senior lecturer in Civil Engineering Technology. When I joined ITUM, there was no office space for me – no table or chair. The Head of the Division was not happy about my joining, because he knew that I had worked in various top administrative positions, with several support staff under me.

However, I was determined. Though I did not have a chair or a table, I was happy to work though my HoD was not convinced. During that time, one of the Civil engineering technology lecturers went on her study leave and I was temporarily allowed to use her belongings, a small table and a chair, but started working seriously. Our current director Mrs. Priyanganie Samarasekara was in the next table. A person who had worked as a top administrator for more than 25 years with official vehicles, drivers, having a massive room in the office, clerks, typists and everything peacefully settled in a corner of a room with his co-workers. It was interesting, but if you are humble enough, you can do anything. I settled myself as a happy lecturer. I liked my job. It was a good decision that I made. That was how, I came to ITUM. After two years of service as a lecturer, I became the Director of ITUM.

When I took over ITUM as the Director, it was a difficult time. There wasn't adequate facilities in contrast to the main university. Even the Director had a small room and in the next room, the Deputy Registrar and the Assistant Registrar were stuffed together, and there was very little space to move around. I was very upset to see ITUM – a national organization was suffering in this way.

'One day if I have power in my hand, it has to be corrected in a massive scale', I thought. If you want to achieve something, dream about it first. When I was sitting in Director's small room, I was dreaming of a massive place. When you have a dream, then you have to set your targets and work accordingly. Look for ways of doing it. Some people dream, but their dreams are not practical. There are people who can do things, but they cannot imagine or dream. I wanted to be a hybrid of both. I wanted to be a dreamer who can apply practical approach to achieve. This building is just an example of that. There are some buildings at the OUSL, and in many other workplaces of mine to witness.

Q: How was your relationship with the current Director and was it useful in working on the relocation project?

The present Director was a lecturer in the same Division when I joined ITUM as a lecturer. The following year, she became the Head of the Division, and I was a subordinate. After another year, I became the Director of ITUM, and she was the Head of Civil Engineering Technology Division. Sooner, she became the Senior Student Counsellor as well, and Chairperson of the Relocation Building Project. We worked together and respected each other well. Later, when she became the Director, I became the Project Director of the ITUM Relocation and Development Project. She and I have a good mutual understanding and respect. It became progressively very easy for both of us to work together. We also had many healthy arguments while working on the project for the betterment of the institute.

Director Mrs. Priyanganie Samarasekara mentioned at this point that 'many people in construction industry complain that the "design and build approach" for major projects have been a failure but for us it was a great success and the reason behind it was Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara. We had a 'black book' which is similar to a black box in a plane. Everything was written down in it, such as details of lecture rooms with number, size and all specifications. We had already decided at the very beginning what we really wanted and we were going by them. Everything was quantified, for instance, lecture halls, auditoriums, Head's room with a conference table and an attached washroom, boardroom and many others for every Division, and therefore it was very easy to calculate the amount too. Everything was thought about carefully and done'.

Q: It has now been more than a year since ITUM moved to its new home in Diyagama. When you brought the ITUM project, you had some visions. Do you think the ITUM is going in the right direction to achieve it?

Absolutely, yes! I have no slight doubt about it. When things have been planned properly with the contended support from many, they can never go wrong. ITUM has a clear vision and therefore, it will keep on treading in the field really smart as it has always been. I'm very confident about the way that ITUM progresses, and all go well with the programme, the students and the staff.

(This is a picture of "Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara Multifunction Hall". This huge 1500 seat auditorium has been named so to show our gratitude to our former Director and Project Director Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara for his invaluable contribution to the Institute.)



I was so engrossed in conversation I had with the Hero of the ITUM Relocation & Development Project Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara. When I listened to him I felt that he had been breathing ITUM! Thanking him, and the Director Mrs. Priyanganie Samarasekara for her contribution to the interview, I left the venue with a determination of practising at least one good thing I learnt from him!

General News

Blood Donation Campaign

The annual blood donation campaign organized by the Section of Maritime Studies of Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa (ITUM) was held under the guidance of Capt. Batagoda on 30th May 2018 at the cafeteria area of the Division of Civil Engineering Technology. This was organized to mark the World Seafarers' Day which falls on 25th June.



Staff Welfare Society

First annual general meeting of the ITUM Staff Welfare Society was held at the Mechanical Auditorium on 12th July 2018 and the following office bearers for the year 2018/19 were elected.

President	-	Mr. Manjula Wickramathilake
Secretary	-	Mr. Sameera De Zoysa
Treasurer	-	Mr. Rangana Kariyakarawana

Ice-cream Dansala

The Division of Mechanical Technology successfully organized an ice-cream "Dansala" on 02nd May to celebrate 2018 Vesak festival. All the staff and the students took part in it and it was also open to the public. 1500 ice-cream cones were given at this event.



Library News

Book Donations

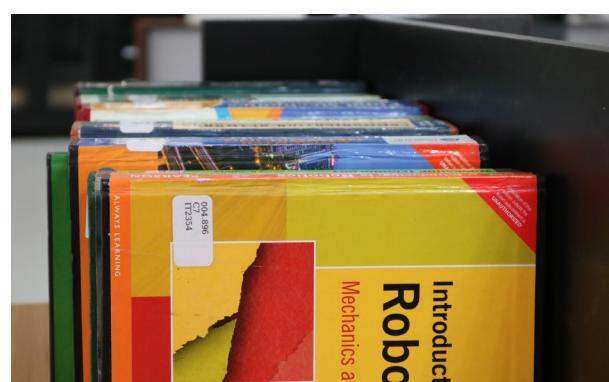
The following individuals and organizations donated books to the ITUM Library

- National Library and Documentation Service Board
- Central Bank of Sri Lanka
- Asia Foundation
- UNO office in Colombo
- National Education Commission
- University Grants Commission
- UVA Wellassa University
- NDT Buddhist Society
- DR. (Mrs.) W.B.M Thoradeniya
- Mr. Upali Gunawardhna
- Eng. Gamini D. Nanayakkara
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- Prof. (Mrs.) Kantha Lankatilake
- Mr. D.N. Gunasekara
- Ms. W.I. Madhushika
- Mr. T.R.D. Perera
- Mr. Amil Bambarawana



We welcome books and other information resources which strengthen the collection and support the NDT programme.

For book donations please contact Acting Asst. Librarian



Students' News

Public Speaking

The Student Development Committee in collaboration with ITUM Toastmasters Club organized an awareness programme and a model meeting of a Gavel Club. Gaveliers representing different universities visited ITUM for this outreach programme on Saturday, 14th July 2018. The event was held at the Auditorium in the Mechanical Division.

The Gaveliers visited were from Wayamba University, University of Colombo, University of Vocational Technology, Spectrum Institute of Science and Technology, National School of Business Management and Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology.



Mrs. Hanoon Umarlebbe, President of ITUM Toastmasters Club delivered the welcome address.

Eng. Mangala Jayasinghe, Former President of NDT Alumni Association made a special speech. Educational speech was given by Toastmaster Kamburawala, Former Gavel Club Coordinator of Sri Lanka on Introduction to Toastmasters, and Introduction to Gavel was done by GV Warren, Co-chair of 2018 Gavel Conference.

Gavel Club National Conference – 2018 is being planned to be held in ITUM premises.

Donations for flood victims

In connection with the charity program “NDT Manussakama” a team of NDT students visited the flood victims in a village called Madagama which is situated in Naththandiya, a divisional electorate of Puttalam District on 29th of May 2018 to give them a hand by donating dry rations, water and stationary items.

The staff of ITUM, NDT students, NDT Alumni and residents of Diyagama extended their support for this program.

“Ru Sanda Ra”

‘Ru Sanda Ra’ the annual talent show organized by the first year students was held on 19th of May 2018 at Dr.T. A. G Gunasekara Multifunctional Auditorium. This event showcased the hidden talents of NDT students.



“Surya Sankranthi”

‘Surya Sankranthi 2018’, the annual New Year celebration organised by the NDT students was ceremonially held on 2nd of June in the play ground of ITUM. ITUM staff, NDT past students, representatives of the Students’ Union and representatives from the other faculties of UOM participated in this joyful function.



“Ifthar”

An Ifthar programme was organized by the Muslim Students of the Institute of Technology on the 26th day of the month of Ramazan in June 2018. They showed a video presentation on theme of Ramazan and its benefits.

The Director, Heads of the Divisions and representatives Students’ Union were invited to the event, and the Director in her address expressed her happiness in participating in the event, and she further mentioned that multicultural understanding can easily be created through programmes of this nature. Mrs. Hanoon Umarlebbe made a special speech on “What is fasting”. She mentioned that fasting is not just abstaining from eating and drinking but practising good human qualities abstaining from all sinful deeds and training to control thoughts and desires.



Dansala

A Dansala, organized by the NDT Students' Union was held on 27th of June 2018 at ITUM. It was successfully ended with the support given by the ITUM staff and the villagers of Diyagama.



Students' Heroes Commemoration Day

Commemoration of the Student Heroes is another important event in the NDT events calendar. It's actually an important day in the Sri Lankan State University system which is celebrated on 20th June of every year in order to pay due respect to Students' Heroes who immensely sacrificed to safeguard the rights of the free education system.



Forthcoming Events

NDT in IT



ITUM is gearing up to introduce the National Diploma in Technology (NDT) in IT (Information Technology) in the year 2019. Planning and development of this three year fulltime programme is being carried out by Mrs. N. S Widanagama Arachchige under the supervision of Mr. D.K Withanage, Former Dean of the Faculty of IT, University of Moratuwa. A gazette notification has already been issued on 06th June 2018 calling for applications from eligible candidates in a bid to select a cohort of hundred students for 2018/ 2019 intake.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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(From 30.04.2018 to 29.04.2021)
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(From 30.04.2018 to 29.04.2021)
- Dr. A. M. N. Alagiyawanna UGC Nominees
(From 30.04.2018 to 29.04.2021)
- Prof. J. R. Lucas UGC Nominees
(From 30.04.2018 to 29.04.2021)

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