



Newsletter

Eastern University, Sri Lanka

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for the faculties*

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2024

*To the entire university community,
we extend our heartfelt New Year wishes!
May this new year be filled with boundless joy,
exciting opportunities, and remarkable
achievements for each and every one of you.
As we embrace the possibilities of this fresh chapter,
may it inspire us all to reach new heights
and foster a spirit of growth and collaboration.
Here's to facing challenges with enthusiasm,
celebrating our collective successes with gratitude,
and creating cherished memories together.
Happy New Year to all,
and May it be a year of prosperity
and fulfillment for our vibrant university family!*



Ceremonial Commencement of Work 2024 at Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Eastern University, Sri Lanka, marked the beginning of 2024 with a ceremonial inauguration on January 1st. The event, led by Vice Chancellor Prof. V. Kanagasingam and coordinated by Registrar Mr. S. Pahirathan, commenced with the hoisting of the Sri Lanka Flag by the Vice Chancellor and the University Flag by the Registrar.

Taking place in Nalliah Hall, the ceremony featured blessings from Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, and Islamic religious leaders, who imparted messages of guidance and unity to the university community. Staff members then pledged their commitment through a structured oath statement to the institution and the nation.

In his address, Vice Chancellor Prof. V. Kanagasingam highlighted the university's progress and urged staff members to strive for further achievements. Assistant Registrar Mr. T Sureshkaanth, Assistant Registrar concluded the event with a vote of thanks. The gathering concluded with a fellowship gathering where participants enjoyed refreshments.



Strengthening Partnerships: MoU Between Eastern University, Sri Lanka and MAG Group Sri Lanka

Eastern University, Sri Lanka, and MAG Group Sri Lanka solidified their collaboration with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 26, 2024, at the Board Room, Eastern University.

The MoU aims to foster cooperation and mutual support in areas of common interest, including research, education, and community engagement. This partnership signifies a commitment to leveraging collective expertise and resources for the benefit of society and sustainable development.

Representatives from both institutions attended the signing ceremony, highlighting their commitment to advancing education and humanitarian efforts in Sri Lanka.



New Fresh Milk Sales Outlet Inaugurated at Women's Hostel

On the 1st of February, 2024, a new sales outlet offering fresh milk products, including curd, ghee, milk toffee, paneer, and milk, was ceremoniously opened in front of the new wing of the Women's Hostel. The outlet was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. V. Kanagasingam. This new service fulfills the needs of the hostel residents, providing them with easy access to fresh dairy products.

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

6th National Symposium of Agriculture - NSA 2024: Exploring Resilient Agriculture for Sri Lankan Economy

The Faculty of Agriculture at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, organized their 6th National Symposium of Agriculture (NSA 2024) on the theme "Resilient Agriculture - A Tool for Reviving the Sri Lankan Economy" on the 6th of March, 2024, in the Board Room of the Faculty of Agriculture, Palachchola. The symposium, starting at 9:30 am, was coordinated by Dr. M. S. Mohamed Nafees, who welcomed the guests, presenters, and participants.

The Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Mrs. Punitha Premanantharajah, delivered the Dean's address, followed by the Vice Chancellor's address by Prof. V. Kanagasingam. The keynote address was given by Prof. C. M. B. Dematawewa of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks from the Secretary of the Symposium, Dr. K. Prasannath.

Following the inaugural session, the symposium featured technical sessions with diverse research papers. The event wrapped up at 3:30 pm with remarks and observations from Prof. Mrs. Punitha Premanantharajah, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture.

Triumph in Transdisciplinary Solutions: Faculty of Agriculture Students Claim Top Honors in SciDimplomatrix23 Competition



The seven students from the 2020/2021 batch of the Faculty of Agriculture secured first place in the SciDimplomatrix23 competition conducted by the Genetics and Molecular Biology Society. The Department of Agricultural Biology staff and the Director/CMR guided the students in identifying and preparing posters that presented innovative transdisciplinary solutions to prevailing crises. In this context, two issues were identified: 1) Automated detector and controller for insect pests, and 2) Conflict between elephants and humans. For this competition, 100 posters were received from universities across Sri Lanka.

Initially, the two posters submitted by the EUSL Agricultural students were selected among 16 finalists. Finally, at the competition held on February 3, 2024, it was declared that the posters submitted by the EUSL Agricultural students secured first place.

FACULTY OF ARTS & CULTURE

Celebrating International Translation Day: A Vibrant Event by the Department of Languages

The Department of Languages of the Faculty of Arts and Culture at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, celebrated International Translation Day on the 21st of March, 2024, with the vibrant events. Under the visionary leadership of Dr. K. Shrikarunaakaran, Head of the Department of Languages, the celebrations included an exhibition and the launch of a compilation of students' translations and a glossary (English – Tamil).

The festivities highlighted the importance of translation in bridging cultural and linguistic gaps, showcasing the department's dedication to promoting linguistic diversity and excellence. The event provided a platform for students to exhibit their translation skills and contributions, fostering a deeper appreciation for the art and science of translation.

Celebrating Tamil 'Thaipongal Vizha' Marks Historic First for Department of Hindu Civilization



On a momentous occasion aimed at preserving Tamil culture and customs, the Department of Hindu Civilization made history by hosting its inaugural 'Thaipongal Vizha' on January 29th, 2024. Led by the Head of the Department, Mr. N. Vaman, this celebration was graced by the presence of distinguished dignitaries, with Vice Chancellor Prof. V. Kanagasingham as the Chief Guest. The event saw the participation of delegates such as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Culture, Dr. V. Gunapalasingam, 'Saivappulavar' V. Ranjithamoorthy, and Senior Lecturer in Hindu Civilization at the University of Jaffna, Dr. S. Mukunthan, who joined as Special Guests. Welcomed by a Cultural Band troupe, all dignitaries were ushered into the Faculty Auditorium.

The celebration unfolded in two parts: the Pongal Vizha featuring ritual religious observances and cultural performances. The stage came alive with mesmerizing music and dance performances by university students, school students, and dance enthusiasts. The event witnessed diverse participation, including Deans of faculties, Heads of Departments, the Registrar, Librarian, Bursar, Assistant Registrar of the faculty, academic and non-academic staff, and students, all coming together to celebrate and cherish the rich cultural heritage of the Tamil community.



FACULTY OF HEALTH CARE SCIENCES

Cultivating a Sustainable Future: "Healthy Green Environment for Sustainable Future" Tree Plantation Project



The Faculty of Health-Care Sciences (FHCS) at Eastern University Sri Lanka (EUSL) has embarked on a significant initiative with the launch of the "Healthy Green Environment for Sustainable Future" Tree Plantation Project. This project aims to foster a healthier environment and promote sustainable living practices within the faculty and surrounding regions.



The project's first phase commenced on the 30th of December, 2023, in collaboration with the Green Layer Environmental Organization. Guests including Prof. V. Kanagasingam, Vice-Chancellor of EUSL, and Mr. K. Mahesan, Secretary of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, joined academic and non-academic staff from EUSL, along with Mr. P. Sasikumar, the founder of Green Layer Environmental Organization, to grace the event. Under the guidance of the Dean of FHCS Prof. T. Sathaanathan, the first phase focused on planting trees to enhance the campus environment and initiate reforestation efforts beneficial to Sri Lanka's overall health and well-being.

The second phase of the project commenced on January 13, 2024, engaging students alongside faculty and staff members from FHCS. Approximately 125 trees were planted during this phase, demonstrating the community's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.



*The Health Care Sciences nurture health in people,
and by planting trees, it nurtures health in the planet.*

Welcoming Future Healers: Inauguration Ceremony of the 18th Batch MBBS Programme

Eastern University, Sri Lanka's Faculty of Health-Care Sciences celebrated a momentous occasion with the inauguration ceremony of the 18th Batch MBBS Programme on February 5, 2024. The event marked the admission of 115 aspiring medical students from various regions of the island for the academic year 2023/2024.



In attendance were esteemed guests including Prof. V. Kanagasingam, Vice-Chancellor of EUSL, Prof. T. Sathaananthan, Dean of the faculty, along with faculty members, new students, their parents, and members of the 17th Batch of medical students. The ceremony highlighted the beginning of a transformative journey for these future healthcare professionals, emphasizing the commitment to excellence in medical education at EUSL.



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Eastern University, Sri Lanka appoints Prof. J. Kennedy as First Dean of Faculty of Graduate

Eastern University, Sri Lanka has appointed Prof. J. Kennedy as the inaugural Dean of its Faculty of Graduate Studies, a landmark decision by the University Grants Commission effective from February 27, 2024.



Prof. Kennedy, renowned for his academic leadership, officially assumed his duties on March 1, 2024. The Faculty of Graduate Studies was established at Eastern University on February 1, 2023, marking a significant step towards enhancing higher education opportunities and research excellence in the region.

LIBRARY NETWORK NEWS

Celebrating Thai Pongal at the Heart of Knowledge: Library Network Staff Gather in Main Library

The vibrant spirit of Thai Pongal filled the Main Library as staff members of the Library Network came together on January 17, 2024, to celebrate this auspicious festival. With traditional decorations adorning the space, colleagues joined in festive rituals and shared joyous moments, fostering unity and cultural appreciation within our library community.



Inauguration of Photocopy and Printing Services at FHCS Branch Library

On the 28th of March 2024, the Branch Library of the Faculty of Health Care Sciences at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, ceremoniously launched an outsourced photocopy service along with other essential printing facilities for medical students and staff. The service booth was inaugurated at 8:15 am by Vice Chancellor Prof. V. Kanagasingam and Dean of the Faculty of Health Care Sciences, Prof. T. Sathananthan, who jointly cut the ribbon.

Mr. S. Santharooban, Deputy Librarian of the Branch Library at the Faculty of Health Care Sciences, introduced this new service. Dr. W. J. Jeyaraj, Librarian of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, also graced the occasion. Additionally, the Senior Assistant Librarian, along with library staff, Heads of Departments of FHCS, and faculty academic, administrative, and non-academic staff members, participated in the event, which concluded with a traditional milk-serving ceremony.



CEDEC (CENTRE FOR EXTERNAL DEGREES & EXTENSION COURSES)

Welcoming New Cohort: 5th Intake of External BBM Undergraduates at Eastern University

The 5th intake of external undergraduates for the Bachelor of Business Management (BBM) program, Batch 2020/21, entered the study circle on the 10th of February, 2024. The formal ceremony was organized by the Centre for External Degrees and Extension Courses (CEDEC) at Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. T. Prabakaran, Director of CEDEC, followed by the inaugural address delivered by Prof. N. Rajeshwaran, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Management. Mrs. V. R. Ragel, Chairperson of the Board of Study for the External Degree Programmes, gave a special address, and Prof. Mrs. Jeyapraba Suresh, Coordinator for Registration and Examination for the External Degree Programmes, provided an introduction to the study programme.

Students shared their experiences, followed by an inspiring address from Vice Chancellor Prof. V. Kanagasigam, urging students to work diligently to achieve their goals. Prof. T. Mangaleswaran, Vice Chancellor of the University of Vavuniya, delivered a guest address. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks from Prof. T. Bhavan, Coordinator of the External Degree Programmes.

CMR (CENTRE FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH)

11th Research Forum on 'Community-Based Intervention 2024' Showcases Innovative Research

The 11th Research Forum on 'Community-Based Intervention 2024' was held in dual mode on the 26th of March, 2024. Moderated by Dr. G. Louis Jeyaraj, a specialist in pharmaceuticals at Sioul Pharma API & Analytical Consulting, LLC, USA, the forum was led by Dr. Rodney Fernando, Director of the Centre for Multidisciplinary Research (CMR).



The forum featured a guest lecture by Dr. G. Louis Jeyaraj, who provided an insightful overview of the drug development and approval process, with a focus on active pharmaceutical ingredients. Other notable presentations included Ms. Alahakoon Mudiyansele Shashi Sharda Alahakoon, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Supplementary Health Care at the Faculty of Health Care Sciences, who discussed maternal risk factors for stillbirths, and Mrs. S. Karunakaran, Chief Technical Officer in the Department of Agricultural Biology at the Faculty of Agriculture, who presented on the efficiency of havonolds from selected plants in controlling cowpea weevil (*Callosobruchion maculatus*) in pulse grains. The forum fostered rich discussions and provided a platform for researchers to share their findings on community-based interventions, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in their respective fields.

Showcasing Innovation: SLIC's Awareness Programme at Eastern University

The Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC) has embarked on a nationwide search for talented inventors through a series of awareness programmes under Sahasak Nimavum 2024, the National Inventions and Innovations Exhibition. Starting on the 12th of March 2024, these programmes aim to showcase the creativity and ingenuity of Sri Lankan inventors throughout many places in Sri Lanka, offering them victorious opportunities.

On the 27th of March, 2024, an awareness programme was held at Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The event highlighted the exciting prospects for finalists, including the prestigious 'Dasis' Trophy for the most outstanding inventions in each category, cash prizes, and valuable recognition through medals, certificates, and prizes. Additionally, winners will receive support for the commercialization of their inventions through the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission. The Centre for Multidisciplinary Research at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, played a crucial role in organizing this event, underscoring the university's commitment to fostering innovation and supporting the talents of aspiring inventors.

ICMR 2024: Pioneering Multidisciplinary Research for a Sustainable Future

The 2nd International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research (ICMR 2024), themed "Sustainability, Innovation, and Transdisciplinary Research for Tomorrow's Challenges," was successfully held on the 23rd of January, 2024, at the Nalliah Auditorium, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. This prestigious event was jointly organized by the Centre for Multidisciplinary Research of Eastern University, Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, India, and ESN Publications, India.

The inaugural session commenced with a welcome address by the Conference Chair, Prof. A.G. Johnpillai. The session featured commendable addresses by several distinguished speakers: Prof. V. Kanagasingham, Vice Chancellor of Eastern University, Sri Lanka; Dr. J. Banuchandar, Founder and Chairman of ESN Publications, India; Mrs. J.J. Muraleetharan, Government Agent of Batticaloa District, who graced the occasion as the Special Guest; Prof. Ranjith Senaratne, Emeritus Professor and Chairman of the National Science Foundation; and Prof. P.C. Naga Subramani, Registrar of Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, India.

Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. V. Sharmila, Assistant Professor at Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, India, and Dr. Nithi Kanagaratnam, Naturopathic Physician and Nutritional Advocate from Melbourne, Australia. The conference proceedings, edited by Prof. Mrs. Niranjana Rodney Fernando, were launched by Prof. V. Kanagasingham, Vice Chancellor of Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Rodney Fernando, Secretary of the Conference and Director of the Centre for Multidisciplinary Research, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The event continued with parallel technical sessions featuring 138 diverse research presentations submitted by research scholars from Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka, fostering rich discussions and collaborative opportunities among scholars from various disciplines.



*Tomorrow's innovations are crafted
from today's baseline roots*

SDC (STAFF DEVELOPMENT CENTER)

Eastern University Hosts Awareness Session on New Tax Regulations

On the 6th of February, 2024, the Chemistry Lecture Hall of the Faculty of Science at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, was the venue for an insightful awareness session on the newly imposed tax regulations in the island. Organized by the Staff Development Centre, the session aimed to educate and inform interested staff members about the latest tax policies and its implications.

Assistant Commissioner and his team from the Inland Revenue Department of Batticaloa led the session, providing comprehensive explanations and answering queries from the attendees. This informative event underscored the university's commitment to keeping its staff well-informed about significant regulatory changes affecting their professional and personal lives.

Empowering Management Assistants: Workshop on Student Interaction

On the 7th of February, 2024, the Staff Development Centre (SDC) at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, hosted a valuable workshop titled "How to Deal with Students." Held in the SDC Hall, the workshop was specifically designed for the Management Assistants of the university.

The session featured Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr. T. Prabakaran and Director of Student Support Services and Welfare Dr. T. Geretharan as resource persons. They shared their expertise and strategies for effective student interaction, equipping participants with essential skills to enhance their professional roles. The workshop highlighted the university's dedication to continuous staff development and fostering a supportive academic environment.

Enhancing Research Skills: Workshop on Proposal Writing Techniques

On the 15th of February, 2024, a highly beneficial workshop on "Research Proposal Writing Techniques for Grants, with a Special Focus on ERASMUS+ Grant," was held for the academic staff members at Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The session featured Prof. A.S.P. Abeyarathne, Senior Professor in Economics at the University of Peradeniya, as the resource professional. Prof. Abeyarathne shared his extensive knowledge and expertise, guiding participants through the intricacies of crafting successful research proposals for grants. This workshop aimed to bolster the research capabilities of the university's academic staff, emphasizing the strategic importance of securing ERASMUS+ grants for future research endeavors.

Advancing Online Education: Workshop on Teaching and Assessment Strategies

On the 19th of February, 2024, the Staff Development Centre at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, organized an impactful workshop for academic staff members on "Effective Online Teaching and Assessment Strategies." The workshop was led by Prof. Hiran H.E. Jayaweera, Professor in Physics and Director of the Network Operations Centre at the University of Colombo. Prof. Jayaweera shared his insights and techniques for enhancing online education, focusing on innovative teaching methods and effective assessment strategies. The workshop aimed to equip faculty members with the skills necessary to excel in the evolving landscape of online education, reinforcing the university's commitment to academic excellence and adaptive learning.

CAREER GUIDANCE UNIT

Unlock Your Future: USA Education Awareness Programme

The Career Guidance Unit of EUSL conducted an Awareness Programme on USA Education for all faculty students on February 20, 2024. The event featured Mr. Patrick McNamara, Executive Director, and Ms. Sabitha George, Student Advisor, from the United States - Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission, Colombo.



Eastern University Hosts Strategic Dialogue with US-SLFC to Empower Prospective Students

A significant meeting took place between the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, and Mr. Patrick McNamara, Executive Director of the United States - Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission (US-SLFC) on February 20, 2024, in the University's Boardroom. The discussion, initiated by the US-SLFC, focused on assisting prospective students. Key topics included U.S. university admission requirements, university/college selection, application procedures, standardized tests (SAT/ACT/GRE/GMAT/ TOEFL), and scholarship opportunities.

Representing the University were Vice Chancellor Prof. V. Kanagasingam, Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr. T. Prabakaran, Dean of the Faculty of Health-Care Sciences Prof. T. Sathaananthan, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Management Prof. N. Rajeshwaran, Director of the Career Guidance Unit Prof. S. Arasaretnam, and Career Guidance Counselor Mr. V. Manirajah.



Empowering Students: Cyber Security Workshop

The Career Guidance Unit successfully conducted an Awareness Programme on Online Violence, focusing on Cyber Security and Online Safety on the 26th of February, 2024 for second-year second-semester and third-year first-semester students from the Faculty of Arts and Culture. The workshop featured Mrs. Myuri Janan, Director of the Batticaloa District Aruvi Women's Network, as the resource person, providing valuable insights and guidance.



Sharpening Career Tools: CV Writing Workshop for Tech Students

The Career Guidance Unit conducted a Workshop on CV Writing and Cover Letter Preparation on March 25, 2024, for third-year first-semester students of the Faculty of Technology. Mr. Sivasegaran Lujanthan, Senior Human Resources Executive at Brandix Apparel Solutions, Arayampathy, Batticaloa, served as the resource person, providing essential guidance and expertise.



CQA (CENTER FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE)

Ensuring Excellence: Quality Audit of Biosystems Technology Program at FOT

The Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA) recently conducted a rigorous Quality Audit on the Bachelor of Honours in Biosystems Technology in Agricultural Technology and Entrepreneurship program offered by the Faculty of Technology (FOT) at Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The audit, held on March 11, 2024, at the faculty premises, aimed to assess the program's adherence to standards outlined in the Programme Review Manual and compliance with Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) requirements.

Dr. P. Elango, Acting Director of CQA, and Ms. Madusha Senanayake, Assistant Registrar of CQA, led the audit process. They meticulously reviewed required documents and engaged in discussions with key stakeholders including Dr. (Mrs.) Suthamathy Santhirakanthan, FQAC Coordinator of FOT, Mr. A. Hisnathas, Assistant Registrar of the faculty, and Dr. (Mrs.) D. M. Hunupolagama, Head of the Department of Biosystems Technology. The audit underscores FOT's commitment to maintaining high educational standards and ensuring the continuous enhancement of its study programs.



Empowering Educational Excellence: SLQF Level Certification Workshop at Trincomalee Campus

The Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA) organized a pivotal Workshop on SLQF Level Certification at the Board Room of the Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, on March 25, 2024. This workshop aimed to raise awareness among academic leaders and quality assurance coordinators on obtaining SLQF Certification for degree programs.

Dr. P. Elango, Acting Director of CQA, served as the resource person for the workshop, guiding participants from the Faculties of Applied Science, Communication & Business Studies, and Siddha Medicine. The workshop facilitated discussions and provided insights into the criteria and processes involved in achieving SLQF Level Certification.

This initiative underscores Eastern University's commitment to ensuring academic programs meet national quality standards and enhancing the overall educational experience at its Trincomalee Campus.



Advancing Academic Standards: SLQF Level Certification Workshop

The Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA) at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, hosted a strategic Workshop on SLQF Level Certification on March 28, 2024, at the Board Room. This workshop aimed to enhance awareness among academic leaders and quality assurance coordinators regarding the process of obtaining SLQF Certification for degree programs.



Dr. P. Elango, Acting Director of CQA, served as the workshop's resource person. Participants included Deans, Curriculum Review Committee Members, Senior Academics, and Faculty Quality Assurance Coordinators from diverse disciplines including Agriculture, Arts & Culture, Commerce & Management, Health-Care Sciences, Science, and Technology. The workshop facilitated in-depth discussions on the criteria and procedures necessary for achieving SLQF Level Certification, underscoring Eastern University's commitment to maintaining and improving educational standards across its faculties.



Enhancing Institutional Review Readiness: SVIAS Workshop on SER Writing

A specialized workshop on SER (Self Evaluation Report) Writing for Institutional Review was conducted at the Swamy Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies (SVIAS) on January 5, 2024, in the Board Room. The workshop targeted the Director, Head of Departments, SER Writing Team, and Administrative Staff.

Dr. P. Elango, Acting Director of the Centre for Quality Assurance at EUSL, served as the resource person for the workshop. Participants benefited from comprehensive sessions focusing on the preparation and collection of evidence essential for SVIAS's upcoming Institutional Review. This initiative underscores SVIAS's commitment to maintaining high standards of quality and readiness in educational assessment and accreditation processes.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

U.S. Embassy Officials Guide Eastern University on Visa Processes

On the 31st of January, 2024, officials from the United States Embassy visited Eastern University, Sri Lanka, to deliver comprehensive presentations on the processes and requirements for various visa types, including student visas and diversity visas. These sessions, aimed at students, academics, and non-academics, provided invaluable guidance on pursuing higher studies in the United States, appropriate non-immigrant visa categories for educational visitors or employment purposes, and information on diversity visas that allow for education, employment, and eventual residence in the United States.

The embassy officials presented the information in a clear and motivating manner, encouraging attendees to follow the proper procedures for obtaining visas. The event was highly beneficial, equipping participants with the knowledge needed to explore opportunities in the United States. The above awareness programme was organized by the International Affairs Division, EUSL.

Strengthening International Ties: China, Yunnan University Delegates Visit Eastern University, Sri Lanka

On the 22nd of March 2024, a distinguished delegation from Yunnan University, China, led by Vice President Prof. Hu Jinming, visited Eastern University, Sri Lanka, to discuss further collaborations based on the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a 'Confucius Unit' that could facilitate the exchange of culture and language.

The delegation included Prof. Zhao Shuhong, Dean of the School of Business and Tourism Management; Associate Prof. Zhang Shilai, Vice Dean of the School of Agriculture; Dr. Ma Li, Vice Dean of the School of International Chinese Language Education; Dr. Hu Xiaowen, Director of the Institute of South Asian Studies of the School of International Relations; and Dr. Bi Yuanyuan, Program Coordinator of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange.

The delegates met with key representatives of Eastern University, including the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Director of Swami Vipulanandha Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Deans of the Faculties, Director of the International Affairs Division, Registrar, Librarian, and Bursar. During the meeting, both parties exchanged views and suggestions to strengthen the bond between the two universities through the proposed unit, paving the way for future academic and cultural collaborations.

The delegates from China and key officers led by the Registrar, EUSL visited the proposed site in the university to establish the 'Confucius Unit,' which has already been established at the University of Colombo and several locations worldwide.



CENSARM (CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT)

CENSARM / Faculty of Agriculture spearheads effort to boost Millet production in Batticaloa District

The Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) organized a pivotal meeting with government officials to advocate for increased millet production within the Batticaloa District. The gathering, held at the Batticaloa District Secretariat on February 9, 2024, witnessed the participation of key stakeholders from Batticaloa District, including the District Secretary, Additional District Secretary, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Deputy Commissioner of Agrarian Services, District Director of Agriculture, Director of Planning, Director/Marketing and Engagement at World Vision, and Director of Anivar Private Limited.

During the meeting, Dr. T. Geretharan, Director of CENSARM, presented the importance of millet cultivation and its potential to strengthen regional food security and resilience to adverse climatic conditions. The attendees were enlightened on the benefits of integrating millet into agricultural practices through comprehensive presentations and insightful discourse.

In alignment with global trends promoting diversified food systems and climate-resilient crops, attendees collectively acknowledged the imperative to intensify efforts towards millet cultivation. Emphasizing the need for collaborative action, they pledged their commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at fostering millet production across the district. Furthermore, the meeting served as a platform to explore market access for millet-based products. Leveraging the collective expertise and resources of both governmental bodies and private enterprises, participants charted a roadmap for advancing millet cultivation endeavors in Batticaloa.



CENSARM Empowers Agriculture Officers and Farmers through Mobile App Development



CENSARM organized a workshop focusing on mobile application development tailored for agriculture officers and farmers. The session, led by Mr. U.W. Lahiru Madhushanka Kumarasiri, Research Officer from the Sugarcane Research Institute, aimed to equip participants with essential skills in utilizing mobile technology to enhance agricultural practices.

The workshop, held at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University on February 8, 2024, provided a platform for participants to explore innovative approaches in leveraging mobile applications for various agricultural activities. Through interactive sessions and practical demonstrations, attendees gained insights into developing and utilizing mobile apps for tasks ranging from crop management to market access.

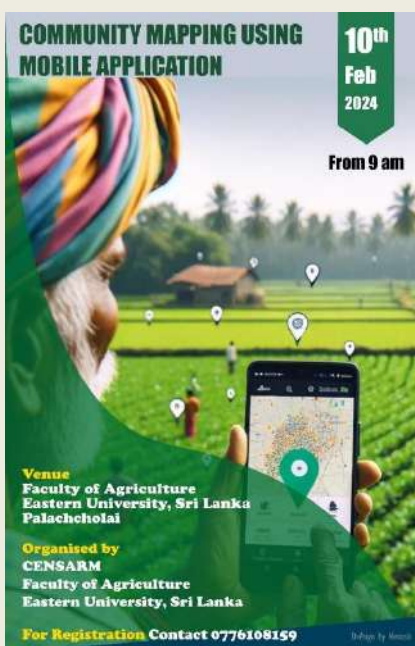
.....contd.

CENSARM Empowers Agriculture Officerscontd.

with a focus on empowering agriculture officers and farmers with cutting-edge technological tools, CENSARM remains committed to fostering digital literacy and innovation within the agricultural sector. The workshop underscored the importance of embracing mobile technology as a catalyst for driving efficiency and productivity in farming practices. Participants left the workshop inspired and equipped with newfound knowledge to harness the potential of mobile applications for optimizing agricultural operations.



CENSARM's Community Mapping: Bridging Agricultural Stakeholders



CENSARM hosted a dynamic workshop focused on community mapping utilizing mobile applications, catering to the needs of farmers and agriculture officers. This innovative session aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills to leverage mobile technology for efficient resource mapping and management within their communities.

Held at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka on February 10, 2024, the workshop provided attendees with practical insights and hands-on training on using mobile applications for community mapping purposes. Through interactive sessions led by experts in the field, farmers and agriculture officers learned how to effectively document and map vital resources such as farmlands, water sources, and infrastructure.

The workshop, funded by the Booster Grant under the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Culture, EUSL, served as a platform for fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among agricultural stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of digital solutions in enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

With a commitment to empowering agricultural communities with cutting-edge tools and techniques, CENSARM continues to lead in promoting innovation and resource optimization in the farming sector.

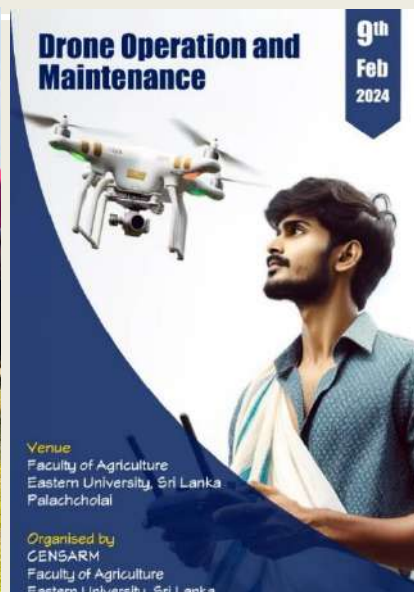


Enhancing Farmers: CENSARM's Drone Application Maintenance

CENSARM convened a workshop on drone application maintenance for farmers and agriculture officers. The session aimed to equip participants with essential skills in operating and maintaining drone technology for agricultural purposes.

Led by experts in the field, the workshop provided attendees with hands-on training on drone maintenance, troubleshooting, and best practices for optimal performance. Participants learned how drones can be effectively utilized for crop monitoring, pest control, and other agricultural tasks.

The workshop, held at the Faculty of Agriculture on the 09th of February, 2024, garnered enthusiastic participation from farmers and agriculture officers alike, highlighting the growing interest and potential of drone technology in modern agriculture.



Honoring CENSARM's Director for Agricultural Advancement

Dr. T. Geretharan, Director of the Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) at the Faculty of Agriculture, was honoured with an appreciation memento by the Department of Agriculture, Batticaloa on the 10th of February, 2024. The accolade celebrates Dr. Geretharan's pioneering efforts in implementing modern agricultural methodologies and organizing impactful workshops that empower youth, agricultural officers, and farmers across the district.



*Sustainable cultivation today grows a greener world
and sows the seeds for tomorrow's prosperity.*

GENDER EQUITY & EQUALITY (GEE) CELL

Grand Celebration Marks International Women's Day 2024 at Eastern University

A grand celebration to mark International Women's Day 2024 was organized by the Gender Equity & Equality Cell of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in the Nalliah Hall on the 13th of March, 2024. The event featured a meticulously planned programme, with Prof. V. Kanagasingham, Vice Chancellor of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mrs. J.J. Muraleetharan, Government Agent of the Batticaloa District, was the Special Guest, and Dr. T. Prabakaran, Deputy Vice Chancellor, served as the Guest of Honour.

Prof. Hemamalie Gunatilaka from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura and Former Director of the Centre for Gender Equity & Equality of the University Grants Commission, delivered the keynote address. Mrs. T. Pio Jude Navinthan, Coordinator of the Gender Equity & Equality Cell at Eastern University, welcomed the distinguished guests, keynote speaker, and participants. The ceremony included the awarding of certificates to achievers and concluded with a vote of thanks from Ms. Treshalin Sellar of the Faculty of Commerce and Management, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

ENACT STAFF DEVELOPMENT CELL (NON-ACADEMIC)

Empowering Staff: ENACT Staff Development Cell Hosts Multiplication Training Series

The ENACT Staff Development Cell (Non-Academic) at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, successfully conducted a series of impactful multiplication training programs in March 2024. These workshops aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of administrative and non-academic staff. The details of the sessions are as follows:

- 6th March 2024 - "Workshop on Communication Skills" targeted at Administrative and Non-Academic Staff, conducted by Mr. Fareez Mureez, Bursar.
- 14th March 2024 - "Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion" and "Change Management," with Mrs. N. Nirumithan, Deputy Registrar/Academic Affairs, and Mr. V. Navirathan, Deputy Registrar/Non-Academic Establishments, respectively, as resource persons.
- 21st March 2024 - "Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion" and "Time Management," with Mrs. N. Nirumithan, Deputy Registrar/Academic Affairs, and Mr. A. Pahirathan, Registrar, respectively, leading the sessions.
- 22nd March 2024 - "Change Management," conducted by Mr. V. Navirathan, Deputy Registrar/Non-Academic Establishments.

Upon completion of the sessions, all attendees received participation certificates, marking their commitment to personal and professional development. These training programs underscore the university's dedication to fostering a skilled and inclusive workforce.

Enhancing multiplication skills today fortifies a strong foundation, empowering individuals to drive innovation and excellence within the university and beyond.

STUDENTS' NEWS

Vibrant Pongal Celebration at Eastern University, Sri Lanka

The university community, under the direction and organization of the students, celebrated a grand Pongal ceremony on the 08th of February, 2024. The colorful events, featuring Pongal in 108 pots, traditional games, and cultural performances, left a lasting impression on everyone's minds and souls. Vice Chancellor Prof. V. Kanagasingam graced the enchanting event as the Chief Guest, with Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr. T. Prabakaran and the Deans of the Faculties as Guests of Honour. The ceremony was also attended by the Registrar, Bursar, academic, administrative, and non-academic staff members. Talented students showcased their skills through amazing dance performances, music, group songs, including Sinhala songs, and Kandyan dance. The students of EUSL continue to impress with their vibrant talents and dedication to both their studies and extracurricular activities.



TRINCO CAMPUS NEWS

Seminar on Communication and Media Studies for School Students

The Unit of Industry and Community Linkages at Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Department of Languages and Communication Studies, Faculty of Communication and Business Studies, organized a dynamic seminar on Communication and Media Studies. Held on February 7, 2024, the event catered to Tamil medium school students (Grades 10, 11, and A/L) from the Trincomalee Educational Zone. Mrs. S. Sriram, Senior Lecturer, and Mr. R. Joel Jairus, Lecturer, from the Department of Languages and Communication Studies, served as insightful resource persons, enriching students' understanding and engagement in the field of communication and media.



Trincomalee Campus Marks World Leprosy Day 2024 with Awareness Drive

On January 30, 2024, the Faculty of Siddha Medicine and the unit of Industry and Community Linkages at Trincomalee Campus commemorated World Leprosy Day 2024 with a dedicated awareness program. Dr. Sivagurunathan Raguraam, Regional Epidemiologist from the RDHS office in Trincomalee, served as the resource person, highlighting key insights into leprosy. The initiative included distributing informative leaflets on leprosy awareness to the general public in Trincomalee town, reinforcing efforts to educate and eliminate stigma associated with the disease.



Street Drama Raises Malaria Awareness in Trincomalee Town

The Center for Industry and Community Linkages (CICL) of Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, collaborated with the Faculty of Siddha Medicine and the Anti Malaria Campaign- Trincomalee unit (RDHS-Trincomalee) to conduct a compelling street drama on Malaria. Held on February 16, 2024, in Trincomalee Town, the event featured students from the 2018/2019 batch of the Faculty of Siddha Medicine, engaging the community with informative performances aimed at raising awareness about malaria prevention and treatment.



Exhibition on Green Energy and Seminar Empower Advanced Level Students

The Department of Physical Science at Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, hosted an impactful exhibition on Green Energy Technologies and a seminar on Physics and Electronics practicals for Advanced Level students. Held on March 21st and 22nd, 2024, under the leadership of Mr. Selladurai Loheeswaran, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, the event was inaugurated by Prof. Mrs. C.G. Devadasan, Rector of Trincomalee Campus, EUSL.



The exhibition featured innovative projects by university students showcasing electricity and energy generation from renewable sources. It aimed to educate over 500 science stream school students from various schools in the Trincomalee district about renewable energy solutions. Concurrently, the laboratory seminar session conducted by lecturers and students provided practical insights aligned with the Advanced Level science curriculum, enriching the educational experience of participating students.



Honoring Achievement: Diploma Award Ceremony at Trincomalee Campus

The External Studies Unit of the Faculty of Communication and Business Studies at Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, celebrated the Awarding Ceremony for the Diploma in Human Resource Management (Intake II) and Diploma in Computer-Based Accounting (Intake I) on March 17, 2024. Held at the Mini Auditorium of Trincomalee Campus, the event was graced by distinguished guests including Prof. Vallipuram Kanagasisingam, Vice Chancellor of Eastern University, as Chief Guest; Prof. Chandravathani G. Devadasan, Rector of Trincomalee Campus, as Special Guest; and Prof. S. Jeyarajah, Director of CEDEC of Eastern University, as Guest of Honor. Dean of the Faculty of Communication and Business Studies, Mr. T. Baskar, along with Mrs. V. Leninkumar, Head of the Department of Business & Management Studies, and other senior academic and administrative staff, joined the ceremony to honor a total of 16 recipients of the Diploma in Human Resource Management and 2 recipients of the Diploma in Computer-Based Accounting.



Prof. Dr. Ir Dean Vucinic Delivers Insightful Talk at Trincomalee Campus

Prof. Dr. Ir Dean Vucinic, the Managing Director and Founder Vicore SA of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) visited the Trincomalee Campus of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, and delivered an engaging scientific talk on "Innovative Research and Development in Engineering, Electronics, and Physics – Zero Emission Sailing Ship for Green Maritime Transport" in the Mini Auditorium of the Campus. The interactive session was well-received, providing comprehensive insights that inspired both the academic staff and students in attendance.

SVIAS NEWS

Vibrant Indian Traditional Dance Forms Dazzle in 'Sringar 2024'

The SVIAS Auditorium came alive on January 30, 2024, with the vibrant and mesmerizing performances of 'Sringar 2024.' Ms. Namrata Mehta and her group of Indian artists staged a series of traditional dance forms, captivating the audience with their grace and artistry. The show featured a variety of intricate dance formations, offering a refreshing and enlightening experience to all present. The splendid performances provided a unique opportunity for the audience to absorb and appreciate the diverse and lesser-known dance traditions of India, leaving them thoroughly enchanted.



Final Year Drama & Theatre Arts Students Shine in Workshop-Driven Performance



Final year students in Drama & Theatre Arts showcased their talents in an impressive performance on February 6, 2024, at 3:00 PM in the SVIAS Auditorium. The show, a culmination of intensive training through a workshop conducted by Dr. Prabath from Japan, captivated the audience with its creativity and execution.

The students demonstrated remarkable skill and dedication, reflecting the high-quality guidance and expertise provided by Dr. Prabath. This event marked a significant milestone in their academic journey, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

Dr. Jayantha Sri Balakrishnan Inspires with Powerful Motivational Speech 'Yaathumaanaval'

On February 23, 2024, the SVIAS auditorium resonated with inspiration as renowned Indian motivational speaker Dr. Jayantha Sri Balakrishnan delivered a captivating speech titled 'Yaathumaanaval,' aimed at motivating students and staff.

The program, led by Director Prof. Bharathy Kennedy, was graced by special guests including Prof. V. Kanagasingam, Vice Chancellor of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Mrs. Justina Muralitharan, Government Agent of Batticaloa, Ms. D. Vijayakumary, President of the Rotary Club of ViruthuNagar, India, Mrs. Rubavathy Ketheeswaran, former Government Agent, and Mr. M. Selvarajah, President of the Batticaloa City Rotary Club.

Dr. Jayantha Sri, an esteemed educationalist, retired Professor of English, writer, poet, feminist, and translator with interests in literary theory, theatre, and drama, shared her wisdom and life stories. Her vibrant talk left the audience highly engaged and motivated, providing invaluable insights and boosting the spirits of all who attended. The event was a resounding success, marking a memorable moment for the SVIAS community.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION

DEAN OF THE FACULTY



PROF. J. KENNEDY

Professor in English

DEAN

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Effective from 27th February 2024

NEW APPOINTMENTS

ACADEMIC, STAFF

DIRECTORS OF ENTITIES



PROF. K. SURESH

Professor in Economics

DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

Faculty of Graduate Studies

For Three Years from 01/02/2024

and

MEMBER OF BOARD OF

GRADUATE STUDIES

Faculty of Graduate Studies

For Three Years from 01/02/2024



DR. P. ELANGO

Senior Lecturer Gr. I in Mathematics

DIRECTOR (Part Time)

Center for Quality Assurance (CQA)

For Three Years from 02/11/2023



MR. R. SAKUNDARAJ

Senior Lecturer in Computer Science

DIRECTOR

**Centre for Information and
Communication Technology (CICT)**

For Three Months from 23/02/2024

SENIOR STUDENT COUNCELLOR



MR. M. RAVI

Senior Lecturer Gr. I

in Philosophy & Value Studies

SENIOR STUDENT COUNCELLOR

For One Year from 01/07/2023

ACTING DIRECTORS



DR. E. A. C. PRIYANKARA

Senior Lecturer Gr. II in Economics

Actg. DIRECTOR

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICE

& WELFARE

For 3 Months from 16/02/2024



PROF. S. JEYARAJAH

Professor in Economics

Actg. DIRECTOR

CENTRE FOR EXTERNAL DEGREES

& EXTENSION COURSES

For One Month from 05/03/2024

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS



DR. (MRS) P. PRATHEEPA

Senior Lecturer Gr. I

HEAD / MANAGEMENT

Faculty of Commerce &
Management

For 3 Years from 09/01/2024



MRS. VIJITHA THIVAKARAN

Senior Lecturer Gr. II in Tamil

HEAD,

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE
TEACHING**

Faculty of Arts & Culture
For 3 Years from 23/01/2024



MR. V. ALAGARATNAM

Senior Lecturer Gr. I

HEAD,

**PHILOSOPHY
& VALUE STUDIES**

Faculty of Arts & Culture
For 3 Years from 01/02/2024



**MRS. THUSHYANTHI
SATHIJITH**
Senior Lecturer Gr. II
HEAD / FINE ARTS
Faculty of Arts & Culture
For 3 Years from 01/02/2024



**MRS. GOWRY
LUXMYKATHAN**
Senior Lecturer Gr. II
HEAD / HISTORY
Faculty of Arts & Culture
For 3 Years from 23/03/2024



MR. NAGAI AH VAMAN
Senior Lecturer Gr. II
**Actg. HEAD
/ HINDU CIVILIZATION**
Faculty of Arts & Culture

ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT



ENG. T. VINOTHAJ
Lecturer
in Computer Science/CICT
**Actg. HEAD / DEPT. OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
Faculty of Arts & Culture
Till 10/04/2024

WARDENS



**DR. (Mrs.) THIVAHARY
GERETHARAN**
Senior Lecturer Gr. I in Agric.
Economics
**WARDEN
WOMEN'S HOSTEL**
For 3 Months from 04/01/2024



**DR. (Mrs.) MYTHREYE
THAYAPARAN**
Senior Lecturer Gr. I
in Human Biology
**WARDEN
WOMEN'S HOSTEL**
For One Year from 01/02/2024



MR. P. PARAMADEVAN
Senior Lecturer Gr. I
in Mathematics
**WARDEN
BOYS' HOSTEL**
For One Year from 12/03/2024

ATTENDING TO THE DUTIES OF ENTITIES



MR. S. THIBAKARAN

Instructor in Physical Education Gr. II

**ATTENDING TO THE DUTIES
of the DIRECTOR**

/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

For 3 Months from 07/01/2024

NEW APPOINTMENTS

NON ACADEMIC STAFF

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANTS

Name	Designation	From
MR. R. RAJARUBAN	Management Assistant Gr. III	01/03/2024
MR. G. PAKEERATHAN	Management Assistant Gr. III	01/03/2024

Cheers to New Beginnings: A Year of Possibilities

Pen from the Chief Editor

As we reach the final page of this edition, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the past year and look forward to what the new one has in store. This newsletter has been a window into the vibrant life of our university, showcasing the remarkable achievements and dynamic spirit of our community.

Entering the New Year, let us carry forward the enthusiasm and dedication that have marked our journey. Embrace the opportunities ahead with optimism and continue to contribute to our shared success. Your efforts and engagement are the driving force behind our collective progress, and I am confident that together we will achieve even greater heights.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. Here's to a new year filled with innovation, collaboration, and inspiring achievements.

Wishing you all a prosperous and fulfilling New Year!

Dr. W. J. Jeyaraj

Chief Editor

& the Chairman of the University Publication Committee

The Newsletter is published quarterly. Its aim is to disseminate news about events and developments taking place in the Faculties, Campus, Institute and Centers of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka. All academics and other staff, as well as students are invited to submit news items for publication in the Newsletter



Newsletter

Eastern University, Sri Lanka

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