



Editorial

The “Webometrics Ranking of World Universities” is conducted by the Cybermetrics lab, a research group belonging to the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC), the largest public research body in Spain. The original aim of this ranking was to promote web publications such as open access initiatives and electronic access to scientific publications. However, web indicators are also useful in ranking purposes as it reflects global performances.

The Educational activities of a University cannot be simply measured by web presence above as it may not be a reliable indicator of the commitment and dedication of a University towards its study programs and research activities. However in the 21st century, webranking is one tool that the international community uses in calibrating the performances of higher educational institutions. Furthermore, the institution website is the portal through which anyone anywhere in the world can learn about a university and establish contact with its staff and students. In today’s world of information technology, a high quality continuously updated website is essential.

The history of the University of Colombo website goes back to the 1990s when the late Vidya Jothi Emeritus Prof.V.K Samaranayake initiated the website at the Department of Statistics & Computer Science. We place a note of appreciation for his dedication and commitment towards this initiative. Internet archiving commenced in 1997 and the first archive entry of the University of Colombo website was on 17 October 1997. Some of our readers may feel nostalgic about the snapshots of the old websites given here.

Later, the responsibility of maintaining the website was shouldered by the then Department of Computer Science. Upon the establishment of the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) in 2002, the responsibility of maintaining the website was transferred to UCSC. UCSC was extremely active in modifying the website for many years and the archives indicate that the highest number of modifications were made during 2004 to 2008. The initiatives taken by the UCSC in this regard are remembered with gratitude.

Later on, in 2008, the University IT Committee was formed, and was responsible for upgrading and maintaining the web. The new website was launched in late 2009, using a content management system. In June 2011 a completely new website was re-launched, with many upgrades.

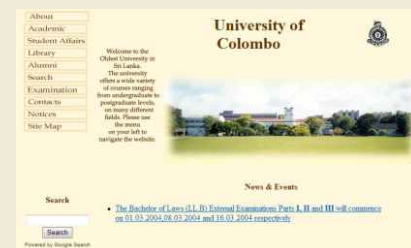
Maintenance of the University of Colombo website requires support from all members of the staff attached to our university. We kindly appeal to all academic, administrative and non-academic staff members to actively participate in this process.



UoC website: 2011



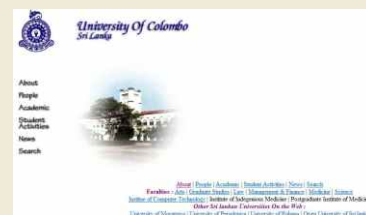
UoC website: 2009



UoC website: 2004



UoC website: 1999



UoC website: 1997

HISTORY OF THE HEALTH CENTER

The University of Colombo has two Health Centres. The main Health Centre, serving the majority of faculties, units and centres of the university is located in "Samson's Bungalow" on Reid Avenue and has been serving the university for the past two decades or more. A second Health Centre functions at the Faculty of Medicine at Kinsey Road for the benefit of the Medical Faculty students and staff.



The University Health Service was organized to help the students of the University to lead an active life free from disease. Initially all registered University students were entitled to free consultations and laboratory services and the service was set up solely for the benefit of the student body. It was believed that timely treatment and care of even mild ailments could prevent the occurrence of more serious disease, minimize the rate of absenteeism from classes and control the spread of infection to others.

A number of services were provided by the medical centre initially. Medical examination of all new students was an essential part of the registration procedure. Enrolment in the university was not valid until such an examination has been completed. Further, annual recheck examinations were compulsory. Mass radiography and mantoux testing was compulsory. B.C.G. vaccination though not compulsory was arranged for mantoux negative cases. Immunization against small pox and typhoid was arranged at the University clinics. These were optional but students were advised to have them done at the earliest opportunity. Health education in preventive medicine through lectures, demonstrations and propaganda films was organized by the University Health Service. Clinics were held at the University Health Service where the University Medical Officer (UMO) was available for consultation. There were facilities for laboratory services and any special examinations were done by arrangements with the Medical Research Institute, Colombo. Students who were too ill to attend the clinics were seen at the Halls of Residence, and were advised hospitalization when necessary.

Maintenance of Environmental sanitation was also done by the University Health Service. Preventive measures to safeguard the health of the University community were carried out by the University Health Inspector under the direction of the UMO. The activities of the preventive service consisted of public health administration, statistics, epidemiology, general sanitation, food sanitation and health education. Under the preventive services, in addition to the organization of immunization programs and the notification of communicable diseases, a "food handler's examination" was also carried out by the University Health Service. In this examination any person or persons directly or indirectly in charge of preparation, serving or otherwise disposing of articles of food were required to be medically examined on first appointment and every year thereafter for evidence of carrier borne diseases. No such person was given employment unless he or she was certified as free from such diseases. Research work in conjunction with the Departments of the Faculty of Medicine was also conducted by the University Health Service.

The University of Colombo Health Centre consists of a Chief Medical Officer, a Senior Medical Officer, two Medical Officers, a Dental Surgeon, Nursing Staff, Pharmacists, Technical Officers, Health Inspectors, and Health and Sanitary Labourers.

The main services currently available at the University Health Centres include the conducting of medical examinations for new entrants, the administering of vaccinations on a needs basis, medical counseling, laboratory testing, the maintenance of the university premises including the halls of residence and the examination of all personnel handling food items. In addition to these services the university Health Centres also issue medical certificates to staff and students on request, recommend special medical leave for students when the need arises, facilitate Specialist advice and inpatient care on referral at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, conduct special medical examinations for scholarships for the staff, conduct routine medical examinations of all new recruits and for the purpose of extending the services of the staff, issue medical certificates for driving licenses to university staff and students, and supply available medicines on a long term basis for chronic illnesses to both students and members of the staff of the university.

A free health insurance scheme is available to all staff members of the University of Colombo. The cost of the scheme is borne by the income generated through external services. This free insurance facility is available only in the University of Colombo.



The waiting Room at the Samsan's Bungalow



Front Office



The Doctor examining a patient



The Laboratory



The Dental Clinic



The PHI's Room

The consultation hours at the University Health Centre are as follows:

Weekdays 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 3.45 p.m.

The Dental Clinic: 8.30 a.m. To 12.30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

OUR STRENGTHS

Strengths of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights

The strengths of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR), University of Colombo, are in its capacity to cater to diverse needs of various target groups who range from local to international university students, armed forces, police and prison officers, prison inmates, media persons, secondary schools, the rural community and other segments of the general public.

One of the main strengths of the CSHR is its ability to provide training programmes that are specific to a target group. For instance, a recent Study Session conducted for students of **Tennessee State University**, provided them with an insight into the local laws in relation to post conflict issues as well as field visits to a Prison Work Camp and a re-settled village.

The CSHR's location in the university premises provides it with easy access to academics and other resources that may not be readily available to other organisations. This advantage also provides CSHR with an acceptance, especially by the State Sector that may not be afforded to other organisations.

In addition, the experience that the Centre has gained over the years, supported by its Board, the university community, funding organisations, its partners and others has enabled it to grow in its provision of services to the wider community. Although located within the university, this has not restricted the Centre in reaching far and wide locally, as well as in its endeavours to collaborate with foreign universities and international organisations.

When collaborating on projects and research proposals with international funders, numerous organisations have approached the CSHR as a partner. This is primarily due to its track- record of being accountable and transparent when conducting activities.

The CSHR has gained a reputation for training the armed forces, police and prison sectors for almost two decades. This experience and recognition has no doubt enabled the Centre to be identified as a trainer by this sector.

Further, throughout its years of working with different groups of people, one of its other strengths is its network of **School and Community Centres** located islandwide. These Centres have enabled secondary school students and rural communities to be made aware of their Rights for almost two decades. It can therefore be said that a large number of students and people from among the rural community have been made aware of the Rights to ensure their protection as well as respect for their Rights of others in society. Community Centres have also played a major role in assisting the CSHR in conducting research that requires networking at a national level.

The provision of Human Rights Education Courses such as the **Master of Human Rights and Democratisation** conducted in collaboration with the University of Sydney, Australia, the **Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Peace Studies** conducted in the local languages which has provided access to a large number of people who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to follow an academic programme of this nature. The **E Diploma in Human Rights** has provided access to people who prefer to follow an online Course in the English medium.

The introduction of three **Advanced Training Programmes** in Human Rights and Fundamental Rights, Workers' Rights and Women's and Children's Rights, conducted over a period of two months has paved the way for a different group of people, primarily those who are working and/or are interested in following these Courses.

Further, it must be said that the CSHR is able to cater to the needs of target groups at short notice, while following the procedures of the university. This is primarily due to the committed Staff that is willing to explore the possibility of catering to new groups of people towards strengthening the diversity of the Centre.

Although the CSHR has faced financial constraints not peculiar to the Centre alone, it has approached this matter in a positive manner by finding other means of ensuring that its mandate and objectives are met in order to ensure the betterment of the wider society, by raising funds through other methods.



Prof Sharya Scharenguivel, Acting Director, CSHR, Prof Kshanika Hirimburegama, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, Former Chief Justice Hon. Asoka De Silva and Mr N Selvakkumaran, Dean, Faculty of Law at the Inauguration of the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation Programme on 20 January 2011



Students of Tennessee State University at the conclusion of their three week Study Session from 10 to 28 May 2011



The First Batch of Students of the Advanced Training Programme in Human Rights and Fundamental Rights, April to June 2011



The First Batch of Students of the Advanced Training Programme in Workers' Rights, April to June 2011

Deshamanya Emeritus Professor Nandadasa Kodagoda
Vice-Chancellor (1994)



The late Professor Nandadasa Kodagoda was born on 31 October 1929 in Hikkaduwa and grew up in the village of Ahangama in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka. He received his early education at the Ahangama Temple School. After the first two years of education, he was admitted to Nalanda Vidyalaya, Colombo. Nandadasa's parents took him back to the Galle district, and admitted him to Mahinda Vidyalaya in Galle during the World War II period.

Nandadasa completed his secondary education at Mahinda Vidyalaya and having passed the University Entrance Examination, entered the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Colombo. After obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1956, he joined the Health Department and was attached to the government hospitals in Galle, Colombo and Karawanella. In 1959, he joined the Faculty of Medicine as a Lecturer in Forensic Medicine.

Dr. Kodagoda obtained the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence from the University of Edinburgh and the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians. Subsequently, the Royal College of Physicians conferred its Fellowship on Dr. Kodagoda in the year 1973. Dr. Kodagoda obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Kodagoda, having served the University of Colombo as a Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor, was subsequently appointed as Professor of Forensic Medicine in November, 1985. Prof. Kodagoda was elected as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in 1988. It was during his second term of office as the Dean, that he was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo in the year 1994.

Prof. Kodagoda was the Chairman of the National

Dangerous Drugs Control Board and the Founder Chairman of the Alcohol & Drugs Information (ADIC) Centre.

Prof. Kodagoda took a keen interest in health education and popularising science by handling the media dexterously and innovatively and wrote widely and extensively. It was in recognition of his work and service to Mother Lanka that the title of "Deshamanya" was bestowed on him by Her Excellency the President in 1994. He was also conferred the title of "Visva Prasadini" by the Hon. Prime Minister in 1996. Former Prof. Kodagoda was awarded the prestigious title "Kala Keerthi", a fitting honour in acknowledgement of his versatility and outstanding contribution in the spheres of Arts and Culture.

Prof. Kodagoda was a highly recognized academic and a professional of repute, respected and renowned in many parts of the world. The University of Colombo in recognition of his contributions in diverse fields, to the University of Colombo in particular and Sri Lankan society in general, conferred on him the Degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) in the year 1996.

APPOINTMENTS



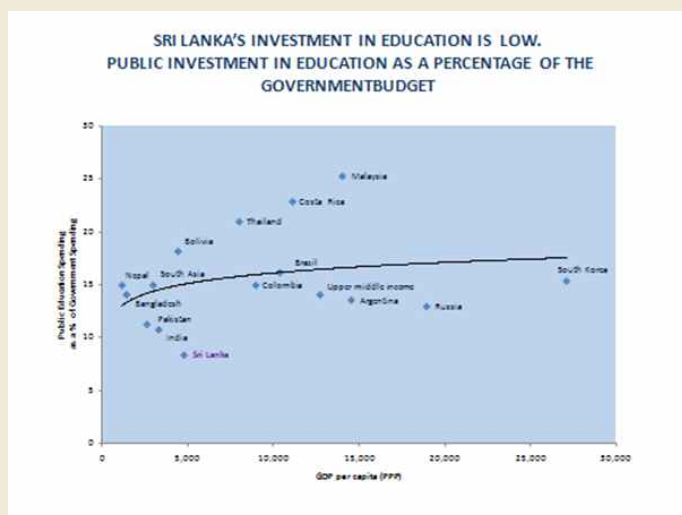
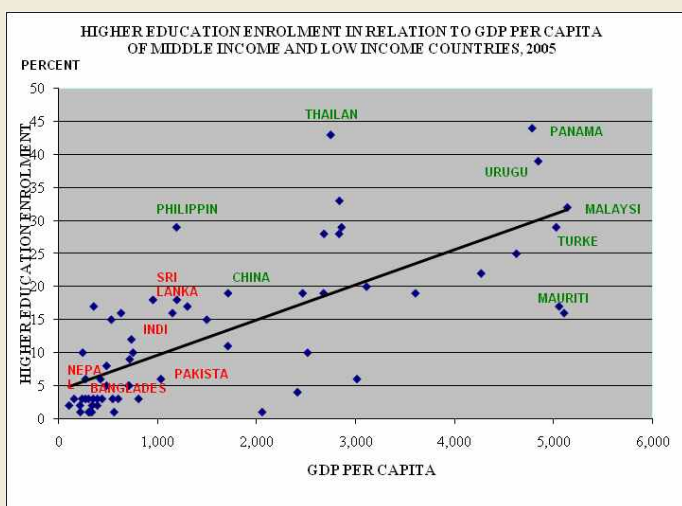
The Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo unanimously elected Prof Rohan W Jayasekara as the fifteenth Dean of the Faculty on 5 August 2011. He is the first academic from a Basic Sciences Department in the Faculty to be elected Dean. Prof. Jayasekara joined the Faculty of Medicine as a lecturer on 1 January 1974. Later he proceeded to the University of New Castle upon Tyne to read for his PhD in Cytogenetics which he obtained in 1980. Upon return to Sri Lanka he established the first Human Genetics Unit in the country in 1981. He is a pioneer in the field of Medical Genetics in Sri Lanka having taught many generations of undergraduates and graduates. He was appointed to the Chair in the Department of Anatomy in 1999. Prof. Jayasekara is a Senior Academic with an unblemished record of academic and professional integrity who has the vision and courage to lead the Faculty to greater heights. He has wide ranging experience having served as acting Dean, acting Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM), member of the Senate, member of the Board of Management of the PGIM and member of the Council for many years. He has chaired and served in several national committees as well. The University of Colombo congratulates Senior Prof. Rohan Jayasekara.

NEWS & EVENTS

Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Annual Research Sessions – 2011

The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) successfully conducted its Annual Research Sessions on 5 August 2011. It was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor and Dr. Harsha Athurupane, Lead Education Specialist, South Asia Region, World Bank. Dr. Athurupane in his key note address emphasized the role of postgraduate research in Higher Education (HE) and commented on some of the interesting findings on HE in Sri Lanka. He highlighted the following as key elements of creating a supporting environment for the development of HE.

- HE development requires sustaining long term commitment from political authorities
- The media needs to be allies in the implementation of HE development initiatives
- The HE sector contains the cream of a country's intelligentsia and hence has unique potential to contribute to the economic and human development of a country.



Both academics and M Phil/Ph.D students of the Faculty presented their ongoing research findings covering the following areas:

- Translation of the Voice Handicap Index (VHI) to Sinhalese Insights from the Procedure
- Mediating Domestic Violence Disputes in the Community Mediation Programme in Sri Lanka: Issues of Women's Equality and Equity

- Female Labor Supply and Child Care: Urban Young Parents with Pre-school Children
- The Influence of Personality Risk Factors for Adolescent Substance Use
- Historical Evolution of Budgeting and Accountability Practice: The Case of the Sri Lanka Railway
- An Investigation of the Leadership Experiences of Principals in the Government Schools of Sri Lanka
- Minorities and the Peace Dividend: The Case of the Northern Muslims
- Weak-form Efficiency of the Government Bond Market in Sri Lanka

Enhancement of research output University of Colombo, A new initiative

Most higher education institutions all over the world identify research as a priority. Similarly, ranking systems used to evaluate higher education institutions give a high weightage to research output. The present trend in HE is to invest heavily in research.

In Sri Lanka, the government has identified the development of a knowledge hub as one of the cornerstones of its development policies. Over the years, University of Colombo has produced high quality research and there is evidence to suggest that the trend is continuing. However, it appears that the investment in research development has not reached the level needed to upscale the numbers and the capacity of researchers and to provide the necessary environment to improve their performance. As a result, the majority of researchers of the university continue to focus on professional degrees and related practices with little importance attached to research degrees or activities. Many of our graduates tend to join universities overseas to obtain doctoral degrees due to a range of reasons and thereby strengthen those institutions at the cost of our universities which remain starved of resources, intellectual development and capacity.

In response to these challenges and with the intention of addressing some of the issues mentioned above, the University of Colombo has identified research as a priority area in the Corporate Plan 2011-2015. The plan to enhance research output was initiated at a meeting held on 28 January 2011 attended by the Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Professor Lakshman Ratnayake, Professor Colin Peiris and a large number of academics from all faculties and institutes. At this one day meeting, a draft proposal to secure funds was discussed. Based on the recommendations of this meeting a new proposal was developed which was subsequently submitted to the UGC for funding. After further discussion and necessary changes the UGC has granted one hundred million rupees to upscale activities of the university including research and research related infrastructure. Additional funds have been made available for research from World Bank funds.

These funds have been secured at a time when the university was making plans to enhance research output of the university. As an initial step, the VC appointed a committee of researchers to recommend a plan to enhance research output. The committee consists of the following members:-

- Prof Nalaka Mendis, Professor –Dept. of Psychological Medicine
- Prof Nadira Karunaweera, Professor-Dept. of Parasitology
- Prof Sarath Kotagama, Senior Professor-Dept. of Zoology
- Prof S.T.Hettige, Senior Professor-Dept. of Sociology
- Prof Sharya Scharenguivel, Professor of Law- Dept. of Private & Comparative Law
- Prof Kamani Tennakoon, Director-Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (IBMBB)

The committee, drawn from all faculties, drew up a concept paper which was subsequently presented to the Senate in February 2011. This concept paper emphasized the need to address issues related to senior, mid career and young researchers. Further, it also addressed issues related to research infrastructure, resources, research culture, training and other related issues.

Subsequently this concept paper was presented at a consultative meeting of senior researchers of the university on the 20 May 2011. At this meeting following detailed discussions, ten recommendations were arrived at and these were presented to the Senate in May 2011. The two chief recommendations were the establishment of a 'Centre for Research Development' to facilitate research and research outputs and the appointment of an 'Interim committee' of research development to plan the activities ahead.

The interim committee, following deliberations and detailed analysis of the earlier recommendations, is in the process of identifying the organisational structure, by laws, functions and the activities of the proposed centre. Another consultative meeting was organized to share these ideas with the researchers at a consultative meeting held on the 10 August 2011. The recommendations of this meeting especially those related to funding of doctoral research and the establishment of the CRD, will be presented at the Senate.

There appears to be a considerable amount of enthusiasm among researchers towards the approaches developed by the university to enhance research output at present. The university has already taken steps to institutionalize the research promotion process by assigning this subject to the newly appointed Senior Assistant Registrar Ms. Vajira Jayaratne who is enthusiastically giving all the necessary administrative support at an institutional level. We will be successful if all stakeholders including researchers, administration, policy makers and the funding agencies work together towards a common goal.

Entrepreneurship Development Program



The Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) has allocated funds under the HETC project to enhance entrepreneurship in university students. A meeting was held at the University of Colombo, Senate Hall on 30 June 2011 to discuss this matter. The Deans of all the Faculties, the Rector Sri Palee Campus, Director IIM and Director UCSC were invited for this meeting. Mr. Patrick Amarasinghe, President of Young Entrepreneurs Sri Lanka (YESL) and his team gave a presentation of the proposed training programme. An introduction to this program was conducted for the students of the University of Colombo on 4 Aug 2011 at the New Arts Theatre. The undergraduates who participated showed enthusiasm towards the program and there were close to 200 participants. Applications are now being invited from the undergraduates and the application form can be downloaded from the University of Colombo website.

The second meeting for the applicants of the entrepreneurship program was held on 19 August 2011 at the New Arts Theatre. At this meeting students were asked to create group in such a way as to form one or two companies per faculty/institute. The application form for this phase too be down loaded from the University of Colombo website.

There is also a proposal to introduce a course in “entrepreneurship” for all students of the Arts and Science Faculties.

Esala Sathsara

The Arts Faculty Interim Students Council has successfully organized “Esala Sathsara 2011”, one of the most colourful and glorious events organized by the Faculty of Arts. Esala Sathsara 2011 consisted of the following activities.

- 15th August: A JAHUTA show - A traditional community drama famous in the North Central province of Sri Lanka.
- 16th August: Literature Criticism.
- 17th August: Esala Sathsara Awarding Ceremony and the Talent show.
- 18th August: Peduru Sajjaya.

This year, The Esala Sathsara organizing committee has organized separate competitions open the school contestants from all over the Island and the winners were awarded certificates and prizes.

The Organizing Committee consisting of Mr. Ashen Aberathna (Chief Organizer), Mr. Sujith Nilantha, Mr. Amith Wasantha, Mr. Sanjeeva Herath and Mr. Danushka Kumara are organizing the event with the guidance of Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama (Vice-chancellor), Prof. Indira Lal de Silva (Dean/Arts), and Prof. Permakumara de Silva (Senior Student Counselor).

Performances of the Members of the Moot Court & Debating Society, Faculty of Law

The students of the Faculty of Law who have represented the Moot Court & Debating Society at the prestigious International Moot Court Competition and Debating Competition have done well to make the University of Colombo known and be proud in the international arena.

The Law Faculty Team which took part in the 2011 Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition – the well-renowned and prestigious moot court competition in the world – was ranked 29th in the world out of a total of 113 teams who qualified to participate at the international rounds. The Faculty of Law Team consisted of Vishaka Wijenayaka, Galusha Wirithamulla, Sechintha Dias, Rhadeena de Alwis and Sajayan Rajasingham. The University of Colombo team thus became qualified to 32 Teams. Of the top 100 speakers in the world of a total of over 350 speakers, Sachintha Dias was ranked 32nd, Sanjayan Rajasingham 39th and Rhadeena de Alwis 100th. This Competition took place in Washington D.C., USA.



The second event in which these students participated recently was the 2nd United Asians Debating Competition that took place in Macau. This is the largest and most prestigious debating competition in Asia. There were more than 1000 teams which took part in the Competition and one of the Teams from the Faculty of Law advanced to the knockout stages having won 5 of the preliminary debutants. The Team comprising Rhadeena de Alwis, Sachintha Dias and Sanjayan Rajasingham, was placed within the top 24 teams.

This Team became the only South Asian team to be placed among the top 16 teams in Asia. The second Team from the Faculty comprising Shanil Wijesinha, Anushka Gunawardena and Micheal Mendis won 4 of their preliminary rounds but could not advance further.

NEWS & EVENTS CONTINUED

Visit by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the University of Colombo



Mr. TON SINH THANH, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, recently paid a courtesy visit to the University of Colombo.

During this visit Mr. Thanh met the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, and had discussions on issues of mutual interest, especially issues relating to the field of Higher Education.

The commencement of link programmes with leading Vietnamese Universities in the areas of undergraduate exchange, research collaborations, and language courses were discussed.

Experiences, advantages, and short comings in the higher educational sectors of both countries were also discussed.

The visiting dignitaries were much interested in getting opportunities for their students to follow, English and IR study programmes conducted by the University of Colombo.

The Vice-Chancellor accompanied, His Excellency the Ambassador to the Faculty of Graduate studies, where a brief introduction was given about the ongoing activities, especially the commencement of courses under the multi mode delivery system by the Dean/ Faculty of Graduate Studies, Prof. Sunil Chandrasiri.

His Excellency Mr. TON SINH THANH was accompanied by Ms. NGUYIEN HOA KHANH, First Attaché of the Vietnamese Embassy during this visit to the University of Colombo.

Installation of a new server at the College House

The Internet users in the university would have experienced an improvement in their browsing speeds from the first of August. We have increased our Internet bandwidth from 4Mbps to 15Mbps. This is almost a four fold increase and the download time has now been reduced to one fourth. This move has been long due. The number of computer users in the university has increased steadily over the past several years and their dependence on the Internet for academic activities has increased. The usage is being constantly monitored and further improvements are likely to take place.

An enterprise class server has been purchased and installed at College House. This would be configured as the university web server as well as the server of the 'Virtual Campus'. This would be one of the many servers the university intends to acquire in the near future in developing its ICT infrastructure.

A state of the art Videoconferencing facility has been established in College House. The faculties are welcome to use this facility for their academic activities such as delivering lecture programs, holding conferences, meetings etc. This unit is capable of making calls at the

speed of 6Mbps thus delivering crystal clear video and stereo sound quality. It is also worth noting that this unit is capable of delivering contents in the computer such as presentations to the far end while engaged in a video call. Therefore, it is ideal for delivering lectures to distant locations either within or outside the country.

Higher Education for the Twenty-first Century (HETC) Project/QIGs

The aim of this sub-component is to enhance the quality of teaching, learning and research, by promoting innovation and creativity so that study programs would produce graduate profiles that could contribute significantly to the economic and social development of the country. Funds will be provided, using a competitive mechanism and only the winners of the competition will benefit from QIGs.

Funds under Quality & Innovation Grants (QIGs) will be made available in 4 separate windows as follows:

Window1: Undergraduate programs of the Faculties of Arts and Management

Window2: Undergraduate programs of all other faculties (excluding those in window 1)

Window3: Postgraduate research programs

Window4: Research dissemination & commercialization projects

The QIG sub-projects under windows 1 and 2 will be implemented at the study program (SP) level and the proposals will be submitted by the SPs with the endorsement of the Dean of the relevant faculty. Grants will be made available in 3 successive rounds, the first round commencing in 2011. The study programs which received QEF grants in rounds 1 & 2 under the IRQUE project are not eligible to apply in round 1 of QIG windows 1 & 2 in the HETC project. Applications are now being received by the Project Director, HETC project upto 30th September 2011.

The main objective of the window 3 of QIG is to target activities, linked with innovative research programs involving Ph.D. candidates. The window 3 (postgraduate research programs) will be implemented at the Faculty level or Postgraduate Institutes (PGIs) independently or jointly with the endorsement of the Dean of the relevant Faculty or/and Director of the Postgraduate Institute and the Vice chancellor. This window has only one round of competition, and grants will be made available to the winners of the competition in 2011/2012 for an implementation period of 4 years.

Please visit www.hetc.lk for more information regarding HETC activities.

Environment Day - University of Colombo

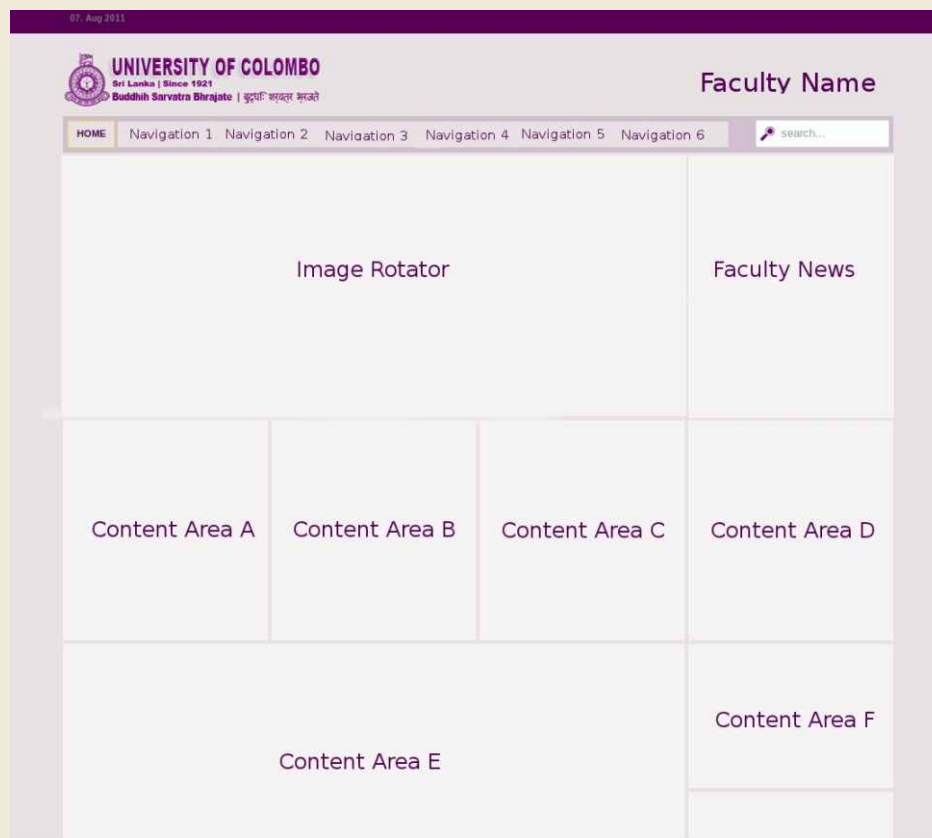
An Environment Day was organized for the New entrant (2011) at the University of Colombo with a view to keeping the University Premises clean and prevent mosquito breeding, on 4 September, 2011 from 7.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. This was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence.

About 1850, (out of 2200) new entrants took part as a continuation of the Leadership Training Programme and Pre-Orientation Programme of the University of Colombo.

In addition to the new entrants, senior students, University Staff and members of the Security Forces, Civil Defence Department and Police took part in this event. This was held under the patronage of Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, the Vice-Chancellor and with the participation of Major General Daya Ratnayaka, Colonel Gunasekera and a few higher officers from the Ministry of Defence.

In addition to the cleaning up programme a cultural event was also organized for the students.

Template for the common Faculty/Department website



One of the main difficulties in maintaining the University of Colombo website has been keeping information up to date. The University of Colombo is a large institution, and the amount of information is correspondingly vast. In the past, the different webpages of the faculties have been diverse, and in fact individual departments have been at liberty to have their own web pages. Unfortunately, the downside of this was that certain departments had well developed web pages, while other webpages had not been updated for many years. This is largely due to the lack of dedicated staff to maintain the website, either at faculty level or at a central level. Most of the time, the responsibility of updating the web fell on a few dedicated academics; Dr Ajantha Atukorale of UCSC must be especially mentioned in this regard. For many years he was personally responsible for all matters related to the web.

It is however now felt that it is best that a common format is used for all faculties and departments, to ensure that all necessary information is provided through the website. Updating the website is now centralized. Our proposed mechanism is that the faculty representatives collate data from their respective faculties, and provide this information to the web designers who will then upload the data and update information at frequent intervals. The Web managers will circulate a standard template which will make it very easy for individuals at faculty level to provide data.

Comments from academics and students regarding the content and format of the website are most welcome. If you have any comments or suggestions please email them to Professor Senaka Rajapakse at senaka@med.cmb.ac.lk.

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