



The University of Colombo wishes readers a Peaceful, Happy and Prosperous 2012



The Board members of the first student companies of the University of Colombo

Editorial

“Steve Jobs is not with us any more but his name will linger in our hearts forever. Jobs revolutionized the computer world by introducing Apple computers. His out-of-the-box thinking and entrepreneurship skills brought products like iPhones to the hands of over 100 million individuals in the world. He was born to an American mother and a Syrian father in California, USA but was adopted by Paul and Clara Jobs and his biography would definitely inspire the minds of our young generation. Steve Jobs never completed his college education perhaps due to high cost or due to boredom. At the age of 20, he started Apple in his garage with his partner and 10 years later it grew to a 2 billion business with over 4000 employees.

“Entrepreneurship” is a powerful tool to gaining success. Enhancing entrepreneurship culture amongst youth will undoubtedly strengthen the economy of a country. The Ministry of Higher Education has taken a major step towards this end and under the HETC project funds are allocated to enhance entrepreneurship culture among university undergraduates in our country. The Young Entrepreneur Sri Lanka (YESL) has undertaken to train 220 students from the University of Colombo and at present, over 100 students are registered to undergo training. YESL is a non-profit organization involved in training young children starting from primary school to high school to be self dependent and to become job providers, rather than job seekers. YESL believes that exposing undergraduates to its programs will “change the mindset of students who protest on the street, demanding government jobs and make them more attractive to the self employment”.

How does this program differ from the well structured courses at the Faculty of Management & Finance at our own university on entrepreneurship development? YESL states that its program makes the students initiate a real business, raise the venture capital, appoint their own Board of Directors, sell a product or a service and share the profit among the share holders. The students will gain financial literacy, inculcate team spirit, respect the ideas of others and will learn to be responsible independent citizens.

What are the roles of academics in this new venture? The student companies may get complacent with their business once it is registered at YESL. However one needs to make sure that these student companies will provide valuable services or quality products to their consumers. Academics can encourage students to get involved in this endeavor during their leisure time while making sure that the students give top priority to their academic activities. On October 27th 2011, 8 student companies formed by 500 undergraduates at the University of Moratuwa were launched at Sri Lanka foundation Institute. Here at the University of Colombo, the undergraduates from UCSC, IIM, Sri Palee campus and Faculties of Arts, Law, Science are engaged in this exercise and the details of their companies are given on the back cover of this Newsletter. It is evident that all these students will not own companies upon graduation, yet this experience will in no doubt help them to get accustomed to the corporate mentality. Their innovation and creativity will be conspicuous during this exercise and perhaps one company may climb unreachable heights, even internationally.

International Unit of the University of Colombo (IUUC) Activities and Collaborations 2011/2012

The International Unit of the University of Colombo since its inception in 2008 has been committed towards enhancing the international linkages of the university throughout the world. Visits by several foreign delegations were recorded in the last quarter of 2011.

Highlighted among those was the visit of the High Profile Delegation of the European Union Headquarters in Brussels that met with the Vice Chancellor and the Deans on the 24th of November 2011. The European Union Delegation was led by Mr. Seamus Gillespie, European Union External Action Service's (EEAS) Director for Asia. The EU Director for Asia expressed interest in future avenues of collaboration between the European Union and the University of Colombo, especially with regards to increasing Sri Lanka's involvement in Scientific and Research programs in the EU.



The Vice Chancellor, presenting a souvenir to Mr. Seamus Gillespie, European Union External Action Service's, Director for Asia

A workshop on the European Union sponsored Erasmus Mundus Scholarship programme was subsequently carried out by Mr. Simone Brotini of the EU delegation to Sri Lanka at the University of Colombo, to raise awareness with regards to available scholarships for undergraduates and post graduate students as well as staff mobility programmes.

In November 2011, Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi visited the University of Colombo and delivered a guest lecture on 'Glimpses of the History of Indian Mathematics'. His Excellency Mr. Ashok Kantha, the High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The event was attended by the Vice Chancellor, Mr. Birendra Singh Yadav, Director Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Deans of the Faculties, Heads of Departments, Dr. Shravika Damunupola Amarasekara, Acting Director of the International Unit, academics and students of the University of Colombo.



His Excellency Mr. Ashok Kantha, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka, Prof. Dinesh Singh Vice Chancellor of University of Delhi together with the University of Colombo team.

The Vice Chancellor met with many foreign dignitaries throughout the last quarter of the year, especially delegates from Justus-Liebig University in Germany, Tsukuba University in Japan, The Japan Science Council, Islamic Science University in Malaysia, Queensland University of Technology - Australia, Simon Fraser University - Canada, and Masaryk University in the Czech Republic, all of which have led to fruitful discussions regarding potential avenues of collaborations between the University of Colombo and these foreign universities in terms of beginning new student and staff exchange programs as well as further strengthening existing ties.

The International Unit has also engaged in strengthening the existing student exchange programmes established under MoUs with the La Trobe University in Australia and the Justus-Liebig University in Giessen, Germany. In August 2011, three students of the University of Colombo returned to Sri Lanka from Germany, after a successful semester of study abroad, while three students from the Justus-Liebig University travelled to Sri Lanka for a semester of study in November 2011, at the Faculty of Arts. Ten other students of the University of Colombo who attended the University of La Trobe on student exchange also returned to Sri Lanka in December 2011 after successfully completing a semester of study abroad.

In January 2012, the Vice Chancellor and senior administrators of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, met with delegates of the Kursk State Medical University, Russia and held discussions on future avenues of collaborations in the field of medical sciences. The delegates explored the possibility of establishing a joint degree programme and student exchange opportunities between the two institutions.

A high profile delegation from Massey University, New Zealand led by Professor Ingrid Day, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Massey University visited the University of Colombo on the 17th of January 2012. The delegates expressed interest in collaborating with the University of Colombo in the fields of Education, Medicine and Sciences through the establishment of online, distance learning programmes.



The Massey University delegation in discussion with the Vice Chancellor and Deans

The International Unit looks forward to future collaborations with foreign universities such as Queensland University of Technology, Simon Fraser University, and Massey University which are to be implemented in the coming year, especially in introducing 2+2 and 3+1 degree programmes. The founder Directress of the IUUC Prof. Neloufer De Mel was commended on her commitment to develop the unit.

OUR STRENGTHS

Colombo University Community Extension Center (CUCEC)

The First Multidisciplinary Center for Training, Research and Community Development Work in Sri Lanka

Introduction

“The Colombo University Community Extension Centre” (CUCEC) is a multidisciplinary Centre established in 2005. The Centre intends to carry out community development activities and extend its services to undertake action-oriented research, practical training courses on methodological and socio-economic issues and consultancies. CUCEC also functions as a Centre for information exchange, education and knowledge service deliveries and dissemination. CUCEC has established links to national as well as regional policy making processes and community development activities.

The Centre provides for the first time an organized framework to mobilize diverse intellectual resources of the country's metropolitan university to facilitate a stimulating environment for professional collaboration, participatory training and action-oriented research in community development activities. The Centre has the unique capacity to obtain the expertise drawn from all the departments of the University of Colombo and of other local universities. It has also established strong links with local and foreign universities. The Board of Management of which the Vice-Chancellor is the Chairperson is vested with the executive authority of the Centre.

CUCEC Goals

- Provide an institutional university base for academics to actively participate in research-based community development activities.
- Create a conducive environment for collaboration with local and foreign scholars and institutions.

General Objectives

- To strengthen the capacities for community development with the use of accumulated knowledge in the university system.
- To serve as a multidisciplinary center of excellence for training, research and community development work.

Specific Objectives

- Carry out capacity building programmes for the public private and other agencies involved in community development.
- Provide expertise for the preparation of community development strategies and plans.
- Undertake research consultancies related to community extension activities.
- Carry out research and publications based on community extension service.
- Provide technical and technological facilities and services for public, private and other agencies.
- Serve as a dynamic center for information exchange and dissemination.
- Promote closer links between the university, national policy-making processes, and the community.
- Strengthen community based institution for sustainable rural development.
- Strengthen local administrative systems through capacity building.

Major Activities During last 3 years

Completed Research Projects:-

- A study on Nature and Extent of Illicit Alcohol in Puttalam, Kurunagala, Kalutara, Gampha and Colombo Districts (November, 2009)
- Baseline study on Mangrove Urban Area Development Programme (November, 2009)
- Nature and Extent of Trafficking of Women and Children in Sri Lanka (December, 2009)
- Economic and Financial Analysis and Performance Assessment of Dry Zone Livelihood Support and Partnership Programme (DZLiSPP) (2010 - 2011)

Training Programme

The CUCEC conducts a three-month certificate course on Research Methods for Development Planning & Management. The programme of study comprises a series of lectures, workshops and field exercises covering the following topics:

- Introduction to Research Methods
- Use of Existing Data & Information
- Rapport Development & Communication
- Methods of quantitative & qualitative data collection
- Ensuring quality in data collection
- Survey methods and sample surveys
- Formulation of research/ project proposal
- Methods of data analyses and interpretation
- Report writing

Advisory Service and Extension Work

- This is geared to meet the increasing demand for advisory services from government agencies, local governments, donor and international agencies, NGOs and community organizations.

Financial Resources

- The CUCEC at present is entirely self-financing. It generates funds from two major sources: 'research and advisory services' and 'training and education'. The principle clients of the center comprise government agencies, regional and local authorities, donors and international agencies.



Certificate course on research Methods for Development Planning & Management 2010



Economic and Financial Analysis and Performance Assessment of Dry Zone Livelihood Support and Partnership Programme (DZLiSPP) (2010 - 2011)

Deshamanya Professor Emeritus W. D Lakshman Vice-Chancellor from 1994 to 1999



W. D Lakshman received his post primary and secondary education at Vidyaloka Vidyalaya (now Vidyaloka College) in Galle and entered the University of Ceylon at Peradeniya in 1960. He was awarded the University of Ceylon scholarship based on his performance at the University Preliminary Examination.

He obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Economics specializing in Money and Banking – the subject specialization still considered an elite specialization in Economics. He was appointed Assistant Lecturer in Economics in January, 1965.

Prof. Lakshman proceeded to the prestigious University of Oxford in the UK for his doctoral studies on a university scholarship in 1968 and resumed work in 1973 having obtained a Doctor of Philosophy (D. Phil). Prof. Lakshman having been a student in the first batch of Sinhala medium undergraduates, realized the difficulties faced by the students due to lack of books in Sinhala. He started writing books in Sinhala during his assistant lecturer days and continued with this practice during the rest of his career. He also contributed significantly to the translated literature in Sinhala on Economics, of which a major highlight was the translation, editing and publication of the Sinhala translation of the renowned textbook in Economics written by Professor Paul Samuelson.

Prof. Lakshman, while serving the University of Peradeniya as a Senior Lecturer in Economics, was appointed the Professor (Chair) of Economics in Colombo and the Head of the Department of Economics at the University of Colombo in October, 1982. Subsequently, he was promoted to the grade of Senior Professor in August 1992. Prof. Lakshman pioneered taught postgraduate programmes in Economics both at Postgraduate Diploma and Masters Levels, in addition to reorganizing and restructuring research degrees at Masters and Doctoral levels offered by the Department of Economics. His research over a period of forty years covered a wide range of subjects including poverty, growth, equity, unemployment, public enterprises, structural adjustment policies, agriculture and industrial development, rural development, international trade, international finance and globalization. Prof. Lakshman's contribution to the development of human resources in the Department of Economics and more generally to the promotion and up-grading of economic teaching in the country is extensively recognized. In this endeavour a Dutch Government funded project of collaboration between the Colombo Department of Economics and the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague from 1987 to 2000 was enormously helpful and Professor Lakshman's contribution in the development and management of this foreign aid project was of far reaching significance. Due to these efforts, by the time Prof. Lakshman retired from university service, the Economics Department of Colombo had become the uncontested leader in economics teaching in the entire university system in Sri Lanka in terms of the number of qualified teachers, quality of teaching and the variety of postgraduate courses on offer.

Prof. Lakshman was appointed a Research Professor at the Faculty of Graduate Studies in March 1991 and subsequently appointed the Dean of the Faculty in September, 1991. As the Dean, Prof. Lakshman made significant changes to the structure of the Faculty of Graduate Studies by introducing many postgraduate courses in several multi-disciplinary areas.

Prof. Lakshman was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo on 19/12/1994 and held this office with distinction up to end of March 1999, when he resigned from this position in order to take up

a Visiting Professor assignment at a Japanese university. During his period as Vice-Chancellor, he was instrumental in re-structuring the undergraduate programmes at the faculty of Arts. The semester based modular system was introduced to the University of Colombo during his tenure. He also contributed a great deal to the development of the university particularly in areas such as postgraduate education, link programmes, staff development and infrastructure developments. A number of building projects were either initiated or carried out during his term of office. The main Library Building stands as a monument to his efforts. Another foreign funded research project initiated due to the efforts of Prof. Lakshman was instrumental in bringing to the University the project widely known within the university as the JICA Project.

The establishment of the Staff Development Centre (SDC) for capacity and skills development of both academic and non-academic staff of the university was a noteworthy contribution of Prof. Lakshman. The Centre continues excel further and some of its qualifications are accepted by an accrediting agency of university staff development centres in Britain. The SDC of Colombo provides training facilities to the entire university system in Sri Lanka. The Career Guidance Unit, the Graduate Foundation, Research Management Unit and various other projects were established under the guidance during Prof. Lakshman's tenure of office as Vice Chancellor. The community service projects in Kurunegala and Weligatte were established during Professor Lakshman's period as Vice-Chancellor. The Weligatte Project has been converted into a fully fledged Institute for Agro Technology and Rural Sciences in 2008. The Western Campus at Horana later re-named as Sri Palee Campus of the University of Colombo was another initiative of Prof. Lakshman as Vice Chancellor.

In 1998, Prof. Lakshman was appointed the “S. W. Brooks Visiting Professor of Queenlands University, Australia; a Professor in the Faculty of Economics of Ryukoku University, Japan for a period of two years in 1999; and Professor at the Faculty of Economics, Saga University, Japan in 2004.

Professor Lakshman's involvement in policy related activities was extensive. At different times of his career, he held positions as a Member, National Task Force for Industrial Development, Member of the National Task Force for Educational Reforms, Member and Vice Chairman, National Development Council, Board Member, Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, and Chairman of the National Institute of Business Management. His involvement in non-governmental sector activities included honorary chairmanships at Social Scientists Association, and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies. After retirement from university service he held the position of Senior Advisor, Ministry of Finance & Planning for two years on the invitation of the government and now holds the position of Chairman of the Institute of Policy Studies on invitation.

In recognition of his excellent services towards national development Professor Lakshman was honoured with the title of “Deshamanya” in 2005.

Professor Lakshman's forty three years long academic career of which twenty five years were as Professor and Senior Professor was concluded on 27th October 2007. The University of Colombo taking into consideration the excellent academic career of Professor Lakshman granted him the title of Emeritus Professor in 2008. His colleagues and friends have joined together to edit and publish two separate felicitation volumes in his honour, one in English and the other in Sinhala.

The University of Colombo, in recognition and appreciation of the excellent services rendered by Prof. W. D. Lakshman to higher Education in particular and to the country in general, conferred on him the Degree of Doctor of Letters (*Honoris Causa*) at the convocation of the University of Colombo in 2008.

NEWS & EVENTS

The 3rd International Conference on Medicinal Plants and Herbal Products

The 3rd International Conference on Medicinal Plants and Herbal Products was held from 19th to 21st December 2011 in Colombo. It was organised by the University of Colombo and SV University, Tirupathi, India. The Chairperson of the Organising Committee was Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama and the General Secretary was Prof. Sudarsanam Gudivada of SV University. The Institute of Indigenous Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine partnered to organise the conference on behalf of the University of Colombo. This was a unique collaboration. Dr. R A Jayasinghe of the IIM and Prof. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake Faculty of Medicine coordinated the effort on behalf of the Institute and the Faculty respectively. The conference was attended by approximately 400 delegates of which nearly 200 were Indian scientists. In addition, invited speakers from USA, Italy and China participated at the conference. There were 3 keynote lectures, 8 special talks, 102 oral presentations, and 70 poster presentations. The inauguration of the conference was a grand event held at Waters Edge. It was graced by the Minister of Higher Education, Hon. S.B. Dissanayake, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education Hon. Nandamithra Ekanayake, and the Indian High commissioner His Excellency Ashok K Kantha and the two secretaries Dr. Suni Jayantha Navaratne, Mr. B. D. Dahanayake. The conference was wide ranging with topics such as biodiversity, conservation, cultivation, tissue culture, ayurgenomics, ethics of research, clinical trials, animal research, quality control of plant material, etc. being discussed. The conference ended with a call for greater collaboration between Sri Lankan and Indian scientists. The 2nd issue of Sri Lanka Journal of Indigenous Medicine (SLJIM) was also launched at this function.

International conference and Ayurveda Exhibition



Parallel to the conference, "AyuMedica 2011" an Ayurveda medical exhibition organized by the IIM was held at the institute premises. The exhibition covered all aspects of Ayurveda and Unani system of medicine and its recent advances. At this exhibition students came up with creative ideas through which to present subject material on Ayurveda in an understandable manner to different target audiences. This was an opportunity for them to enhance their skills in creative thinking, communication and organization. Various companies of the private sector engaged in herbal drug manufacturing, health tourism, herbal cosmetic products, etc. also took part in the exhibition with their goods and services. Honorable Ministers and ambassadors were invited for the inauguration, and approximately 50,000 visitors attended the exhibition during its six day period. Such exhibition was organized by IIM after 50 years and the leadership of the Director, Dr. R. A. Jayasinghe is appreciated.



Virtual Campus of the University of Colombo



The committee on the Virtual Campus of the University of Colombo (VCUC) organized a session on 'Orientation to online education' on 25th October 2011 at the IRQUE laboratory, University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC).

The aim of this session was to brief the participants on course requirements, and the process of developing e-learning courses / converting parts of courses to e-learning mode. It targeted all categories of academic staff who are interested in being the coordinators for developing e-learning courses / converting parts of courses to e-learning mode.

Dr. Indika Karunathilaka, Director MEDARC, Faculty of Medicine initiated the session with a presentation on 'Online education and the need for it'. Dr. Damith Karunaratne, Senior Lecturer, Coordinator- e-learning centre, UCSC, conducted a hands-on practical session titled 'Education content deployment tool' orienting the participants to the use of software Moodle. This was followed by a presentation on 'Introduction to instructional design' by Mrs. Nisha Kariyawasam, Instructional Designer, UCSC.

A total of 56 academic staff from the Faculties of Arts, Education, Law, Medicine & Science, three Institutes & Sri Palee Campus participated at the session.

Virtual Campus of the University of Colombo (VCUC) was approved by the Council on 09.09.2009 as the campus which delivers courses/ parts of courses utilising modern distance education methodologies. The University of Colombo has purchased a server with capacity to hold the e-learning courses that will be offered by the VCUC in the future.

Following are the courses of University of Colombo, delivered fully/partly using online modes. Plans are underway to host all these courses through the VCUC in the near future:

1. Executive Diploma in Marketing through MLearning Programme - Faculty of Graduate Studies
2. Natural Product Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry as a part of the MSC in Applied Organic Chemistry - Faculty of Science
3. PgD/M.Sc in Applied Electronics - Faculty of Science.
4. Certificate Course in Bioinformatics - Dept. of Plant Science, Faculty of Science.
5. M.Sc in Environmental Science - Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science
6. E-Diploma in Business English. Blended Course - ELTU Unit, Faculty of Arts.
7. Certificate Course in Health Programme Management - Dept. of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine
8. M.Sc in Medical Toxicology - Post Graduate Institute of Medicine.
9. E-Diploma in Human Rights - Centre for the Study of Human Rights
10. M.Sc in Biomedical Informatics - Post Graduate Institute of Medicine.
11. e-Diploma in Agrotechnology- Institute of Agrotechnology & Rural Sciences at Weligatta.

NEWS & EVENTS CONTINUE

International Statistics Conference, 2011



The International Statistics Conference 2011 jointly organized by the Institute of Applied Statistics of Sri Lanka, the School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Sydney, Australia, and the Department of Statistics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, concluded amidst much praise on the 30th of December 2011. The conference was held on three consecutive days at the Waters Edge Hotel, from the 28th to the 30th of December with a remarkably distinguished audience of over two hundred and fifty participants from twenty one countries including Australia, USA, India, Japan, the UK, Sweden, South Africa and Saudi-Arabia.



The highlights of the conference were the key-note addresses by the world renowned statistician, Prof. C. R. Rao and the President of the American Statistical Association, Dr. Nancy Geller. Prof. C. R. Rao is famed for his diverse contributions towards the field of statistics. He has 34 Honorary Doctorates of which the 34th was awarded by the University of Colombo. Recognizing his invaluable contribution to the field of statistics the University of Colombo awarded him an honorary degree of Doctor of Science at the Postgraduate Convocation of the University of Colombo, held on the 28th of July 2011. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, presented Prof. C. R. Rao the certificate of the honorary doctorate at the inaugural ceremony of the conference. The Chief Guest at the conference was the Honorable Senior Minister of Science and Technology Prof. Tissa Vitharana.



The objective of this conference was to open opportunities for the statistics community to recapitulate, gather and exchange new ideas and statistical concepts befitting the theme "Statistical Concepts and Methods for the Modern World". Dr. C. D. Tilakartane, from the Department of Statistics, University of Colombo was the Chairperson of the Local Program Committee, and Prof. Shelton Peiris, from the University of Sydney and Dr. S Ganeshalingam, from Massey University, New Zealand, were the Co-Chairpersons of the International Program Committee of this conference. Two pre-conference workshops were held on the 26th and 27th of December at the Financial Mathematics Laboratory, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo. In addition, the Department of Statistics hosted a visit by Dr. Nancy Geller which included a presentation followed by a discussion with the department's special degree students.



Deans, Departmental Heads and other distinguished academics from the University of Colombo attended the conference. The International Statistics Conference 2011 saw the participation of several eminent statisticians from around the world who presented their work on several areas such as Longitudinal Data Analysis, Bayesian Methods, Sequential Inference, Small area estimation, Machine Learning & Applications and Statistics in Sports, to name a few.



NEWS & EVENTS CONTINUED

Yauwanabhimana

Yauwanabhimana is a program initiated by Hatton National Bank (HNB) to empower young men and women of Sri Lanka vis-à-vis fostering personal and professional development through employability. In order to do so, HNB has partnered with a range of reputed institutions i.e. Hayleys, Dialog, CIC, DIMO, Holcim, British Council, the University of Colombo and the World University Society Canada.

The objectives of Yauwanabhimana are:

- To give the opportunity to build connections with top corporations in Sri Lanka
- To inform and educate on possible career opportunities
- To provide market connections to those with an entrepreneurial spirit
- To educate on industry best practices via knowledge sharing sessions with corporate partners
- To provide Financial Education programmes to help manage financial future
- To provide personal development programmes to enhance personality and social conduct
- To provide English Language training programmes to develop future employability

The programme was launched on the 1st of December, and the University of Colombo was represented by Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, Vice Chancellor; Mr. P.W Senaratne, President of the Alumni Association; Mr. Priyanka Jayatilake, Program Co-ordinator and Vice President of the Alumni Association; and Ms. Suranjani Wickremeratne, Secretary of the Alumni Association. Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama addressed the invitees and the corporate partners on this day and provided an insight on the university and its activities to those present. Mr. P.W Senaratne, President of the Alumni was also called upon to sign the MOU Agreement with HNB.



Through this programme, the University, Alumni and HNB will provide opportunities, including internships, knowledge sharing and exposure through various seminars, workshops and activities, not only to enhance employability of the undergraduates, but also to help those who want to raise their personal standards to achieve greater heights.

More details of the program are available on <http://www.yauwanabhimana-hnb.lk/>

Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) Promoting Research and Knowledge on Contemporary India

The Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) is a multidisciplinary research centre established to promote activities connected with developing knowledge in Sri Lanka on contemporary studies in India; and strengthening Indo-Lanka relationships through an institutionalized network between the two countries. It is the only research institution in Sri Lanka dedicated to the study of contemporary India. The CCIS is established under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka and the University of Colombo.

The chief function of the Centre is to provide an intellectual forum for academic staff, and postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers working in the field of contemporary Indian studies, and to provide a base for research - both for its own members and those from collaborating institutions. The Centre aims to serve as a platform for lectures, seminars and other research events in the field, including collaborative research projects. The CCIS welcomes links with other scholars, nationally and internationally.

The Centre office is located at the Faculty of Education premises of the University of Colombo.

Dr. Sandagomi Coperahewa, a Senior Lecturer in Sinhala at the University of Colombo is presently serving as the Director/CCIS. directorccis@gmail.com



Colombo University Alumni Association of Victoria



Since its inception just over two years ago, the Colombo University Alumni Association of Victoria (Australia) has come a long way from very modest beginnings, thanks to the enthusiasm of its membership. Two Annual General meetings and several Committee meetings have been held during this time, and the two Family Dinner and Dances have been highly successful and well attended.

The main objectives of the Association are to promote fellowship, goodwill and networking amongst its members, and to help promote the University of Colombo, our Alma Mater. We supported the University by means of book donations to its library last year, and are looking to support its new initiatives such as the Business Entrepreneurial Programme. At present discussion are underway to start a venture capital fund to assist the student companies involved in this entrepreneurship program.

We have also completed setting up our web page and are now in the process of updating our website. <http://www.cuaav.org.au/>

HETC: Entrepreneurship Programme Student Companies in the University of Colombo

Plexus Solutions UCSC

"Plexus Solutions will be a company that will cater to Sri Lankan & International markets by providing IT & Network services. We are offering high quality, reliable and robust web site development, HR Management Systems, Document Management Systems and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. We hope to expand our company to have "Data Centers" locally which can provide cloud services (PAAS and IAAS) and also web hosting plans."

Sith Ru Creations Faculty of Arts

Sith Ru Creations is the creative leader at the University of Colombo in new forms of creative design. In the initial stage of the business, we manufacture wall hangers and customized greeting cards. Our business is powered by a high performing team from the Faculty of Arts who are experts in painting, sewing and designing. Our R&D team is involved in market analysis on handicrafts of Sri Lanka and works to enhance our business theme. We plan to expand our business by identifying current trends in architectural designs and street exhibitions.

PROELITE Faculty of Science

PROELITE is the service organization which provides a wide range of event management support to society and corporate world. Our Vision is "To be the best event provider in the South Asian region." PROELITE's mission is "To provide innovative, creative, reliable, cost effective and eco-friendly event management solution." Our strategy is to introduce cross-cultural activities to Sri Lankan society with state of the art technology and sector expert's knowledge. Products and services include social events such as weddings, engagements, birthday parties, cocktail parties, corporate events; and AGMs, Exhibitions, and Colors Nights.

Ayusha Natural Products Institute of Indigenous Medicine

Ayusha Natural Products is an Ayurvedic drugs Manufacturing Company. This is a product of Institute of Indigenous Medicine. We will be the market leader for herbal products by applying traditional medicinal solutions to Sri Lankans. Our Products are totally natural. The extracts of secret herbs will be the miracle healing solution in the future. Our Company will attract many foreigners and will be the icon of Sri Lankan Indigenous medicine.

Ayu Lanka Products Institute of Indigenous Medicine

Ayu Lanka is a company that offers Ayurvedic drugs, medicinal powders such as "Thripala," and herbal oils. We are powered by the strategic know-how of IIM. Our medicinal products will be the solution for various diseases without any side effects to human body. Our herbal oil products are unique for hair treatment. In addition medicinal oil products for body, mainly joint and muscular pains would be developed by our company. We are planning to diversify our business to herbal beauty care products and indigenous treatment methods in the tourism sector.

CREDO Faculty of Science

CREDO - Sri Lanka, an information and service provider for the sustainability and improvement of tourism in Sri Lanka. This provides a vast range of knowledge and guidance on Sri Lanka to locals and especially foreigners from all over the world. You can just log onto the CREDO Sri Lanka web site and feel the amazing beauty of mother Sri Lanka while exploring her hidden and undiscovered heritage which you will not find anywhere else. This website will especially include all the traveling guides, maps, hotels, and many facilities. Just feel it. It's your destination.



Plexus Solutions



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