

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

This publication aims to keep you updated on the latest courses, workshop programs, and initiatives designed to support the professional and personal growth of both academic and non-academic staff at the University of Colombo. We hope this newsletter serves as a valuable resource for all members of our university community.

Overview of Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC)

The Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC), formerly known as the Staff Development Centre (SDC), at the University of Colombo, has been at the forefront of staff development in Sri Lanka's higher education sector since its establishment in 1997. In 2024, the Centre was renamed to reflect its expanded mission and continued commitment to the professional growth of both academic and non-academic staff at the university.

The HRDC is committed to promoting excellence in education, research, and administration by equipping university personnel with essential skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities. It aligns its programs with contemporary trends and challenges, ensuring relevance and practicality for the dynamic demands of the higher education sector.

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Director
Senior Professor S.P. Premaratna
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CTHE Course Coordinator
Senior Lecturer Dr. S. Rajadurai
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ASTHE Course Coordinator
Senior Lecturer Dr. Rajitha de Silva
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Short Course Coordinator
Lecturer Mr. Joseph Francis

CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING IN HIGHER EDUCATION (CTHE) COURSE

The Certificate of Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE) is a key program conducted by the Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) of the University of Colombo. It enhances the teaching, learning, and assessment skills of probationary academic staff and fulfills the University Grants Commission (UGC) requirements. Accredited by the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA) of the UK, CTHE aligns with international standards. Regular reviews by SEDA consistently highlight its effectiveness and contribution to academic staff development.

MaTE (MAKING TEACHING EFFECTIVE) CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Making Teaching Effective (MaTE) program, conducted by the Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) of the University of Colombo, is specifically designed for Assistant Lecturers (Temporary). This program focuses on equipping early-career academics with the essential teaching skills and strategies required to excel in higher education. The MaTE program emphasizes practical teaching techniques, student engagement strategies, and the use of innovative tools to enhance classroom effectiveness.



WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS 2024

Workshop on Orientation to the University System – CTHE batch 27

A workshop for the CTHE-27-2024 batch was held on 11th March 2024, with 66 participants. Senior Prof. H.D. Karunaratne (Vice Chancellor), Ms. Vajira Hapuhinna Jayaratne (Acting Registrar), Ms. J.T.L. Dharmasena (Bursar), and Ms. T.D.D. Pathirana (Deputy Registrar) shared insights on the university system, policies, finances, and academic career advancement. This session provided valuable guidance for participants' academic journeys.



Mental Well-being Workshops

The SDC held workshops on mental well-being for staff on 12th, 19th January, and 2nd February 2024, led by Senior Professor Piyanjali De Zoysa. Topics included stress management, resilience, and habit change. On 11th March 2024, 34 participants received certificates from the Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne, at a ceremony attended by Professor Piyanjali and other university officials.



Workshop on "Enhancing Information Searching and Utilizing Online Tools for Research Paper/Dissertation Writing and Thesis Supervision"

The HRDC held a workshop on "Enhancing Information Searching and Utilizing Online Tools" on 5th and 12th September 2024 at the Jayarathne auditorium. Led by Dr. N.M. Karannagoda, it attracted 48 participants, focusing on advanced research techniques, digital resource evaluation, and academic writing.

Capacity Development Program for Non-Academic Staff

The HRDC held a two-day program on 3rd and 9th October 2024, focusing on productivity and service delivery. Led by Dr. Maringa Sumanadasa and Mrs. Pearl Weerasinghe, it welcomed 130 university staff and external participants, highlighting HRDC's dedication to enhancing non-academic staff skills.

Workshops on Enhancing Job-Ready Skills

The HRDC conducted two workshops on "Learn, Practice, and Apply Job-Ready Skills," focusing on leveraging Google Apps for productivity. The Academic Staff Workshop was held on 30th September 2024 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and the Non-Academic Staff Workshop on 10th October 2024 at the Faculty of Arts. Led by Dr. Rasika Dayaratna.

Workshop on Ethics and Values in Higher Education

The HRDC, in collaboration with Globethics Academy, Geneva, conducted a two-day Faculty Development Programme on Ethics and Values in Higher Education on 5th and 6th December 2024 at the University of Colombo. The program, guided by Senior Professor S.P. Premaratna and Dr. S. Rajadurai, aimed to equip faculty with the tools to teach and research ethics, promote ethical standards, and engage in global policy dialogues.



Workshops on English for Management Assistants

The HRDC, University of Colombo, successfully conducted a four-day workshop titled "English for Management Assistants" to enhance the communicative skills of Management Assistants. Led by Dr. S. Rajadurai, Senior Lecturer in English and HRDC Coordinator/CTHE, the workshop helped participants improve their confidence in handling day-to-day administrative tasks. All 50 registered participants successfully completed the course.

Qualitative Research Workshop

The Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) successfully conducted a six-day workshop on 'Qualitative Research: Enhancing Analytical Skills and Research Capacity'.