



Inside this issue

Celebrating 80 years of SLAAS....1

Section A.....2

Section C.....6

Section D6

Section E18

Section E2.....8

Section E3.....10

Section F12

Environment Committee.....14

Committee for Popularization of Science16

General research Committee.....19

Committee on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies20

Chapter News21

SLAAS NEWS

Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science

Celebrating 80 years of SLAAS

The Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS), the premier organization of Science in Sri Lanka, proudly celebrated a remarkable milestone this year— its 80th anniversary!

As a part of the celebrations, on 29th July 2024, the Association hosted the event 'Celebration of 80 years of SLAAS'. A highlight of the occasion was the issuance of a commemorative stamp and first day cover by Sri Lanka Post. The stamp, designed by SLAAS member Dr. Praneeth Rathnayake, beautifully illustrates the year's theme: 'Harnessing the Power of Sciences for Societal Transformation.' During the event, a panel of past General Presidents of SLAAS took the audience on a nostalgic journey, and a video presentation showcased the key activities conducted by SLAAS over the years. The celebration was held at the SLAAS Headquarters, a building designed by the renowned architect Dr. Justin Samarasekera, who also served SLAAS with distinction as General President in 1976. It was particularly fitting and an honor to have as the Chief Guest, Dr. Samarasekera's daughter, Nela de Zoysa, who has followed in her father's footsteps and made her mark as a distinguished architect. The event, which was sponsored by Haycarb PLC, concluded with refreshments and fellowship adding a delightful ending to a memorable celebration.

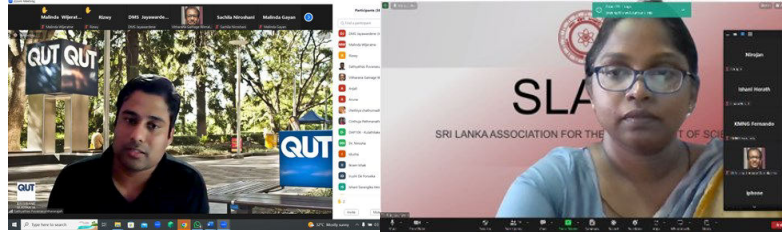


As SLAAS commemorates its 80 year, the Association wishes to pay tribute to all the past General Presidents and members whose vision, perseverance, and collective efforts have laid a strong foundation for its continued growth and success. May the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science go from strength to strength!

Section A

Programmes for Professionals

A webinar on “Artificial Intelligence in Medical Imaging” was held on 5th of April 2024 at 2 pm. The resource person was Dr. P. Sathyathas (PhD), Teaching Associate, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology. There were around 50 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene and Dr. Cinthuja Pathmanathan.

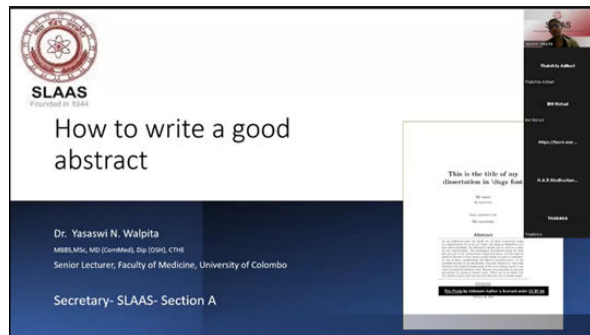


A webinar on “Evidence -based practice for medical and allied healthcare professionals” was conducted on the 3rd of May from 12:00 pm–1:15 pm with Dr. Thusharika Dissanayaka, an Adjunct Research Associate from the Department of Physiotherapy, Monash University, and Lecturer Torrens University, Australia as the resource person. There were 25 participants for this webinar. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene and Dr. Cinthuja Pathmanathan.



A webinar series on Research Methodology for undergraduates of the Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo was conducted in collaboration with SLAAS Section A. Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene conducted a session on “How to write an effective research proposal” on 16th May 2024 from 3–4 pm; Dr. M.W.S.J Kumari, Senior Lecturer and Chairperson-

Ethics Review Committee-FIM, Department of Basic principles, Ayurveda Anatomy and Physiology, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo conducted a session on “Obtaining ethical clearance for undergraduate research projects” on the 16th of May from 4–5:30 pm; Dr. Yasaswi Walpita conducted a session on “Sampling and sample size calculations” on 17th May 2024 from 3–4 pm; Dr. N.D Kodithuwakku, Senior Lecturer, Department of Ayurveda Pharmacology, Pharmaceutics and Community Medicine, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo conducted a session on “Referencing styles” on the 17th of May from 4–5:30 pm and Dr. Jeevani Dahanayake conducted a session on “Selecting a research topic and Research Report Writing”, on 25th May 2024 from 3–4 pm. The programme was well attended by the students with over 150 participants. This programme was coordinated by Dr. Jeewani Dahanayake.



A Webinar on “How to Write an Effective Abstract” was conducted on the 5th of June at 7 pm for all undergraduate and postgraduate students by Dr. Yasaswi Walpita, Senior Lecturer, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo as the resource person. The webinar was well attended with 200 participants. This activity was coordinated by Ms. Thakshila Adikari.



A webinar on “Presenting Your Research Orally... How best to do it.” was conducted on the 23rd of June 2024 at 7:30 pm with Dr. H.M.B.H. Denuwara, Acting Consultant Community Physician, RDHS Office Colombo as the resource person. The webinar was well attended with 100 participants. This activity was coordinated by Ms. Thakshila Adikari and Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene.

A webinar on “ Navigating the Research Grant Application Process: Strategies for Success” was held in collaboration with the General Research Committee of SLAAS on 24th of June 2024 at 9 pm with Dr. Inoka Sandanayake, Scientific Officer of the Research Division of the National Science Foundation and Coordinator of the Competitive Research Grant



Scheme of the National Science Foundation as the resource person. The webinar was well attended with 100 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardena.

A webinar on “Introduction to Qualitative Research: A Primer on Core Approaches” was held on 17th July 2024 from 8:30 pm to 10 pm with Dr. Supun Wijesinghe, Consultant Community Physician, Head of Family Health, Nutrition and Behaviour, Research Unit, Health Promotion Bureau, as the resource person. The webinar

reached a full capacity of 100 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene.

A webinar on “Validity of Study Instruments” was held on 24th July 2024 from 8:30 pm to 10 pm with Dr. Shreenika Welinge, Board Certified Specialist in Community Medicine, Senior Lecturer, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo as the resource person. The webinar was well attended with 80 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene.

A hands on “Data Entry and Data Analysis Workshop Using SPSS Software” was carried out in collaboration with the College of Dentistry and Stomatology and the General Research Committee of the Sri Lanka Association of the Advancement of Science on the 27th of July from 8:30 am to 1 pm at the Hector Kobbekkaduwa Agrarian Institute with Prof. Carukshi Arambepola, Dr. Yasaswi Walpita, Dr. Nadeeka Chandraratne, and Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene, all from the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo as the resource persons.

There were 18 participants. This programme was coordinated by Dr Dushyanthi Jayawardena, Dr. Amirthavarshini Rajaganesh and Dr Rasika Ekanayake.

Lunch time talks

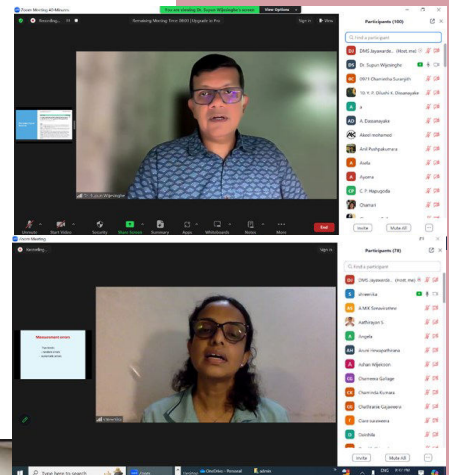
A lunch time talk on “Services and Community Care available for Children with Special Needs” was conducted in collaboration with the National Ayurveda Teaching Hospital Borella on the 22nd of April at 1 pm with Ms. T H R Samanmalee, Lecturer, in Social Work, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo as the resource person. It was attended by around 35 doctors and medical students and around 15 parents of differently abled children. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Nirmala Senaratna, Dr. Jeewani Dahanayake and Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardena.



A lunch time talk on “Important medicinal plants used in Ayurveda for allergic conditions” was conducted in collaboration with the National Ayurveda Teaching Hospital Borella on the 30th of May from 1-2:15 pm with Dr. Jeevani Dahanayake, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo as the resource person. The session was attended by 50 doctors. This programme was coordinated by Dr. Nirmala Senaratna and Dr. Jeewani Dahanayake.

A lunch time talk on “Role of Physiotherapy in the Health Care System” was conducted in collaboration with the National Ayurveda Teaching Hospital Borella on the 20th of June at 1 pm with Dr. KRM Chandrathilaka, Lecturer, Department of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo as the resource person. The programme was well attended with over 60 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Nirmala Senaratna and Dr. Jeewani Dahanayake.

A lunch time talk on “Role of Physiotherapy in the Health Care System” was conducted in collaboration with the National Ayurveda Teaching Hospital Borella on the 20th of June at 1 pm with Dr. KRM Chandrathilaka, Lecturer, Department of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo as the resource person. The programme was well attended with over 60 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Nirmala Senaratna and Dr. Jeewani Dahanayake.



Activities carried out to promote health and disseminate knowledge among the general public

A Mental Health awareness programme named “Niwunu Sithayi, Suwathi Gathayi” was conducted in collaboration with the Colombo Public Library to commemorate World Health Day on the 8th of April 2024 from 10 am to 12 pm at the Colombo Public Library premises with Prof. Wasantha Gunathunga from the University of Colombo as the resource person.

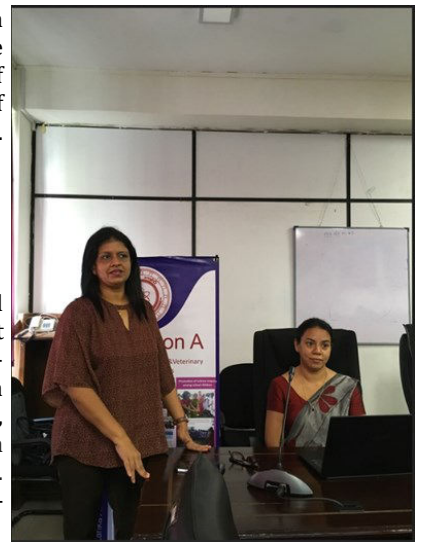


The programme was well attended by the public with around 50 attendees. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene.



An oral health awareness session was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture on the 28th of May 2024 from 11:00-12:30 pm at the Ministry of Agriculture premises at Battaramulla aiming the Development Officers of the Ministry. Dr. Nilantha Rathnayake, Consultant Community Dental Surgeon at Dental Institute Maharagama and Dr. Rasika Ekanayake and Dr. Amirthavarshini Sriskanthan, Senior Lecturers from the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura participated as resource persons. There were around 50 participants. This programme was coordinated by Dr. Chamari Kannangara.

A programme on “Suwabara Diviyakata Ayurvedaya” was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture on the 26th July 2024 from 11 am to 12 noon at the Ministry of Agriculture premises at Battaramulla aiming the Development Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Jeevani Dahanayake Senior Lecturer, from the Faculty of Indigenous Medicine was the resource person. There were around 50 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Chamari Kannangara.

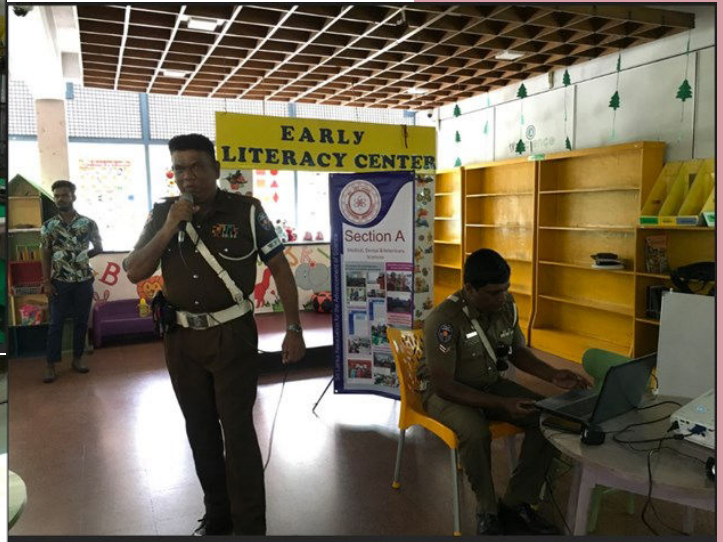


Activities carried out to fulfil the responsibility towards society

A programme on responsible pet ownership titled “If I get a pet dog or cat?” was held for children in collaboration with the Colombo Public Library, on 20th April at 3 pm at the Colombo Public Library. Premises. The resource persons were Dr. Chandika Wickramasinghe, Veterinary Surgeon, Crown Pet Animal Hospital, Colombo 7, Ms. Shilpa Samaratunge, Founder of the Little Island Sanctuary and Dr. Chamari Kannangara, Deputy Director, Livestock Planning, Ministry of Livestock Development, Govijana Mandiraya, Battaramulla and Vice President of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association. There were around 20 children. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Chamari Kannangara and Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene.



An interactive session for children on “Road Safety” was conducted in collaboration with the Colombo Public Library and the Western Province (South) Traffic Police Division on the 11th of May 2024 from 10 am to 12 pm at the Colombo Public Library premises. The resource persons were police officers from the Western Province (South) Traffic Police Division. The programme was well attended by the children with around 25 attendees. This programme was coordinated by Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardene.



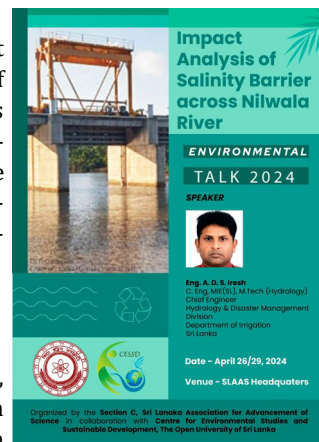
A programme was held to commemorate the National Early Childhood Care and Development week at Yatinuwara DS office. This was organized by Ministry of Women and Child affairs and Dr. Yasaswi Walpita participated as the main resource person representing SLAAS section A. ECCD officers of Kandy District, GramaNiladahrhis of Yatinuwara DS division, Probation officers, women development officers of Kandy district participated and there were 250 such participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr Yasaswi Walpita .



Section C

Guest Lectures

On April 26, 2024, Eng. A.D.S. Iresh, Chief Engineer from the Hydrology and Disaster Management Division of the Department of Irrigation, Sri Lanka delivered a lecture entitled "Impact Analysis of the Salinity Barrier across the Nilwala River". Open to both academia and the general public, this session explored the purpose, design, and challenge associated with the salinity barrier. The insightful lecture was made possible through the collaborative efforts of SLAAS-Section C and the Center for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development at OUSL. Held at the SLAAS Headquarters, the session provided a valuable opportunity to address and discuss the frequently debated issues related to the structure.



Workshops

A workshop entitled "SMART FUTURES: IoT for Tomorrow's Innovators" was conducted on July 1, 2024, by Divor Automations (Pvt) Ltd in Collaboration with SLAAS Section C. Hosted at Curtin Colombo, No. 80, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02, the workshop catered to young school children eager to learn about the Internet of Things (IoT). The session included both theoretical aspects and practical demonstrations, providing hands-on experience for students from several schools. The event was sponsored by Curtin Colombo.



Section D

Guest talks and Webinars

A guest talk on "Mobilizing voices and agency of children and youth for planetary health" was organized by the SLAAS, section D. Dr. Julie Trafford served as the resource person and the event was held at the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, on 3rd April 2024 with the participation of children and young participants. A webinar on "Flavonoid rich plants and their preventive and curing potential against diseases" was held as an online event on 25th April 2024 from 5 pm to 6 pm. Dr. D.V. Dayangi Hemalika, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka was the resource person. Dr. Hemalika highlighted the importance of conducting more extensive research studies on herbal products to fill the existing knowledge gaps. The event was successfully held with an interactive participation of many academia, researchers and undergraduate & postgraduate students from both state and nonstate universities.

A webinar on "Impacts of Microplastics on Fish and Aquatic organisms and Human Health" organized by the SLAAS section D was held as an online event on 28th May 2024 from 7–8 pm. The resource person was Dr. Shyamali Weerasekara, Principal Scientist, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA). Dr. Weerasekara highlighted the microplastic related threats to biota in the ocean environment and potential health risks to humans due to consumption of contaminated marine products.

A webinar organized by SLAAS section D and NARA on “Sustainable Restoration of Mangroves in Sri Lanka” was held via Zoom on 3rd June 2024. Mr. Sarath Jayanatha, Senior scientist in NARA, served as the resource person. He emphasized the importance of species identification and giving priority to local mangrove species, commonly available in the planting area for restoration purposes.



Aesthetic and Environmental events

“මිනි නද ගී සැදුව”, an aesthetic event to pay tribute to the mother nature by composing songs of environmental and spiritual beauty was reiterated by volunteer academia from state universities and related institutions. Ten songs were selected for the event after careful consideration of their relevance to nature.

The event was held successfully on 5th June 2024 at the SLAAS headquarters from 3 pm onwards with over 40 participants. Dr. Jayantha Wattevidanage and Mr. Kosala Abeykoon moderated the event. Prof. Kamal Ranatunga (USJ), Prof Dharshani Weerahewa (OUSL), Dr. Isuru Premarathna (OUSL), Dr. Ruminda Wimalasiri (OUSL), Ms. Pradeepa Perera (OUSL), Dr. Dusantha Alwis (OUSL), Dr. Nayana Wijethilake (USJ), Dr. Sachini Dulsara Amarasekera (UOC) and Dr. Rochana Weerasinghe (NARA) performed the songs while undergraduate students from University of Sri Jayewardenepura formed the orchestra. Sound moderations were done by Amila Vimarshana (USJ). The media support was provided by FOS media of the University of Colombo.



A Mangrove Planting program

A Mangrove Planting program was held at the Dikovita Beach, Kelaniya river mouth area on 8th June 2024 as a collaborative event of SLAAS section D and National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA). This activity was sponsored by Nayon Lanka Pvt Limited (Plants), Sethsarana foundation (Morning refreshments) and Jetwing- Negombo (Lunch). About 400 mangrove plants, belonging to true mangrove varieties; *Rhizophora* sp. *Bruguiera* sp., *Lumnitzera* sp. *Aviceneae* sp. were planted with a participation of more than thirty individuals from SLAAS, NARA and students from the Ocean University of Sri Lanka, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and University of Colombo.



Section E1

Teacher Enrichment Programme in Mathematics Education in Sri Lanka

The Teacher Enrichment Programme, aimed at enhancing Mathematics Education in Sri Lanka, was launched in 2022. These workshops are specifically designed for G.C.E. (A/L) Combined Mathematics teachers. The 6th Teacher Training Programme for Combined Mathematics Teachers was conducted in the Sabaragamuwa Province. This event took place on April 5th, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Education Development Center in Meneripitiya.

The workshop was facilitated by two resource persons: Dr. Shelton Perera, a Consultant from SLTC Research University and Dr. Gaya Jayakody, a Senior Lecturer at USJ. Dr. Rajitha Silva, representing CPS and Dr. Sujeewa Wijesiri, representing Section E1, served as coordinators for the event. Their combined expertise ensured a productive and enriching experience for all participants.

Workshop/Webinars

The hybrid seminar on Radio Frequency Applications with microwave Wizard was held on 17th July 2024 from 10.00 am–12.00 pm at the IFS Lab, Department of Physics, University of Colombo. About 30 students participated onsite and about 50 participants online. The resource person was Ms. Thejani Fernando, Application Engineer at Mician GmbH, Germany. The event was jointly organized by the Physics Society, University of Colombo and SLAAS Section E1.

A webinar named "The way forward for Agripreneurship for all ...by all.." in collaboration with Environment Committee was held on 27th July 2024 via Zoom from 4–5 pm. The resource person was Dr. Gayani Weerasinghe, Senior Lecturer at GISM Campus, Nugegoda. She explained entrepreneurship opportunities in agriculture and income generation from venture technologies.

Section E2

A webinar on "Biased ligands as selective activators of target receptors: Insights from the anxiolytic neuropeptiderelaxin-3 and its receptor"

A webinar was organized on the topic of "Biased ligands as selective activators of target receptors: Insights from the anxiolytic neuropeptiderelaxin-3 and its receptor" on 08th of May, 2024 at 6:30 pm via zoom. Dr. Tharindunee Jayakody, a Senior Lecturer from the Department of Chemistry, University of Colombo, served as the resource person for this event. During the webinar, she mentioned the importance of G-protein coupled receptors including their diverse functions and insights for targeted drug delivery approaches using her own research experiences in the field. It was a very successful event having over 50 participants. This event was coordinated by Dr. Sachindra Perera, an Executive Committee Member of the Section E2/ SLAAS.

The Annual Interuniversity Poster Competition

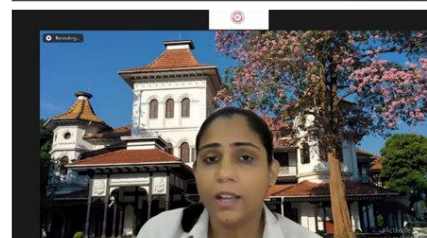
The interuniversity undergraduate poster competition is one of the main events that is being organized by the Section E2/ SLAAS. This year, the competition was held in collaboration with the Environmental Committee of the SLAAS under two main themes, namely; "Chemical approaches for sustainable urban waste management" and "Innovations in nanotechnology for clean water and sanitation".

The event was held on the 01st of June 2024 at the SLAAS Headquarters with the participation of eight universities and academic institutes in Sri Lanka including University of Colombo, University of Kelaniya, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Ruhuna, South Eastern University, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon (ICChem), NSBM Green University and the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT). Two separate teams with five members from each institute were participated under each theme. In addition to the best three poster awards offered by the Section E2/ SLAAS, the Environment Committee (EC) collaborated to award a "Best Green Chemistry" poster from each theme, which emphasizes the green chemistry principles with the objective of promoting green chemistry knowledge among undergraduates in chemical sciences. The inauguration ceremony was consisted of the welcoming remarks by the President, Section E2, Dr. Laksiri Weerasinghe, address by the General President of SLAAS, Prof. Ramanee Wijesekera and the introduction of the competition guidelines by the Committee member, Section E2, Dr. Sachindra Perera.

Biased ligands as selective activators of target receptors

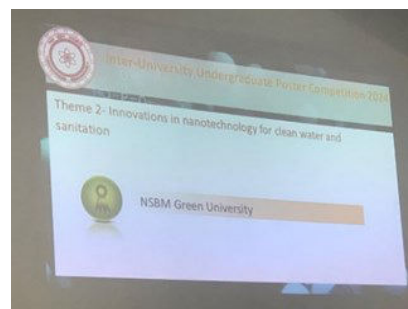
Insights from the anxiolytic neuropeptide relaxin-3 and its receptor RXFP3

Tharindunee Jayakody (PhD)
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka



For the theme, chemical approaches for sustainable urban waste management, Dr. Pradeep Samarasekera from the University of Kelaniya, Dr. Saranga Diyabalanage from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Dr. Ruchira Wijesena from the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa were participated as the members of the judging panel.

From the theme of chemical approaches for sustainable urban waste management, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was awarded best poster award, whereas the University of Colombo and the University of Kelaniya were awarded the second and the third places, respectively. University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the Best Green Chemistry award.



For the theme, innovations in nanotechnology for clean water and sanitation, Dr. Neranga Abeyasinghe from the University of Colombo, Dr. Amila Jeewandara from the University of Kelaniya, and Dr. Nuwan de Silva from the Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology were participated as the members of the judging panel.

From the theme of innovations in nanotechnology for clean water and sanitation, the NSBM Green University was awarded best poster award, whereas the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) and the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon (ICChem) were awarded the second and the third places, respectively. NSBM Green University won the Best Green Chemistry award.

This event could be considered one of the successful events organized by the Section E2/ SLAAS annually, which highlight the talent pool of Sri Lankan undergraduates in chemical sciences. The success of the event was evident by the comments of the participants, where they acknowledged the Section E2/ SLAAS for bringing up a platform like this to showcase their talents. After announcing the winners by the judges together with their comments, the event was concluded by giving tokens of appreciation to the judges followed by the vote of thanks by the Committee Member section E2, Dr. Imalka Munaweera. The overall event coordination was done by the Section E2/ SLAAS members, Dr. Imalka Munaweera and Dr. Sachindra Perea with the help of entire committee.



Section E3

Panel Discussion: "Shaping the Future Policies for Generative AI in Sri Lankan Higher Education"

National Science Foundation, SLAAS (Section E3), IEEE Sri Lanka Section, IEEE Computer Society Sri Lanka Chapter, Lanka Education and Research Network (LEARN), and International Conference on Advanced Research in Computing (ICARC) collaborated to organize an Online Seminar entitled "Shaping the Future Policies for Generative AI in Sri Lankan Higher Education" on June 20, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The session was moderated by Prof. S. Vasanthapriyan from the University of Sabaragamuwa. Panelists attended to the session were Prof. Asoka S. Karunanada (University of Moratuwa), Dr. Asitha Bandaranayaka (LEARN), Prof. Nuwan Kodagoda (Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology), Dr. Thusari Silva (University of Moratuwa), Dr. Menaka Ranasinghe (Open University of Sri Lanka), Ms. Vishaka Nanayakkara (University of Moratuwa), Prof. Roshan Ragel (University of Peradeniya), and Dr. KPN Jayasena (Technical University Dresden, Germany). During the session panelists provided valuable insights into AI implementations, ethical considerations, curriculum integration, and research opportunities. Attendees had the opportunity to learn from an esteemed expert in the field and explore innovative strategies for navigating the complexities of generative AI in the digital age.

Organized by General Research Committee (GRC) and Section E3 - Computer Science of SLAAS, and ICARC
In collaboration with IEEE SRI LANKA SECTION, IEEE COMPUTER SOCIETY SRI LANKA CHAPTER, SLAAS Sabaragamuwa Chapter & LEARN

Shaping the Future Policies for Generative AI in Sri Lankan Higher Education

Resource Panel

Moderator

Prof. S. Vasanthapriyan
Associate Professor
Faculty of Computing, UoS
Sri Lanka

Panelists:

- Prof. Asoka Karunanada
University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka
- Dr. Asitha Bandaranayaka
LEARN
Sri Lanka
- Prof. Nuwan Kodagoda
Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology
Sri Lanka
- Dr. Thusari Silva
University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka
- Dr. Menaka Ranasinghe
Open University of Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka
- Ms. Vishaka Nanayakkara
University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka
- Prof. Roshan Ragel
University of Peradeniya
Sri Lanka
- Dr. KPN Jayasena
Technical University Dresden
Germany

DATE : 20TH JUNE 2024 | TIME : 5 PM - 7 PM | VIA: ZOOM

Join us for a 120-minute panel discussion, "Shaping the Future: Policies for Generative AI in Sri Lankan Higher Education." Experts will explore AI implementations, ethical considerations, curriculum integration, faculty development, research opportunities, and policy frameworks. Engage in insightful conversations focused on establishing robust policies to shape the future of AI in Sri Lankan universities.

zoom <https://shorturl.at/axu4M>

Follow the Link to Register

SCAN TO REGISTER

GenAI Workshop for Academic Staff

The workshop on GenAI for academic staff was conducted by Prof. Nuwan Kodagoda on the 26th of July from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm with the participation of 22 academic staff from the four Faculties of Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT). The participants included Deans, Senior Professors to Instructors. This included staff teaching computing, business, engineering, architecture, psychology, nursing and English. The topics discussed included

- Introduction to GenAI
- Prompt Engineering
- Integration of GenAI into Academic Work
 - * Brainstorming Ideas
 - * Creating Lesson Plans, Content
 - * Giving Assessments to Students
 - * Teaching – Personal Teaching Assistants (developing chatbots)
- Using GenAI for Research

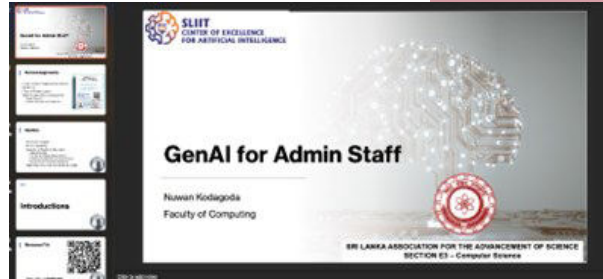
Participants had a hands-on session using a variety of GenAI tools which included ChatGPT4, Elicit.com (for literature review)



GenAI Workshop for Admin Staff

The workshop on GenAI for admin staff was conducted by Prof. Nuwan Kodagoda on the 2nd of August from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm with the participation of 36 administrative staff of Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT). The participants included Directors, Secretaries, Senior Managers, Managers, Assistant Managers, and Executive staff. This included staff from Finance, Human Capital, Exam Divisions, Library, Administration Divisions. The topics discussed included

- Introduction to GenAI
- Prompt Engineering
- Integration of GenAI into Admin Work
 - * Brainstorming Ideas
 - * Summarizing, Creating, editing documents
 - * Converting documents from one format to another
 - * Working with Excel to advance manipulations
- Generating Python code from GenAI and running



The participants had a hands-on session using ChatGPT4.

Articles Published in the "Vidusara" Science Magazine

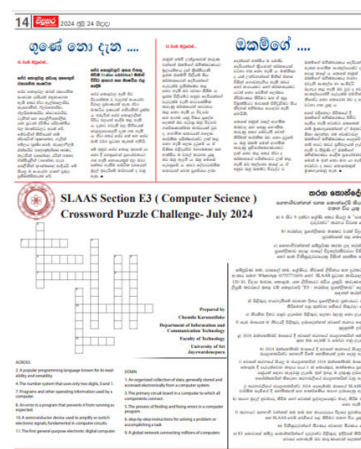
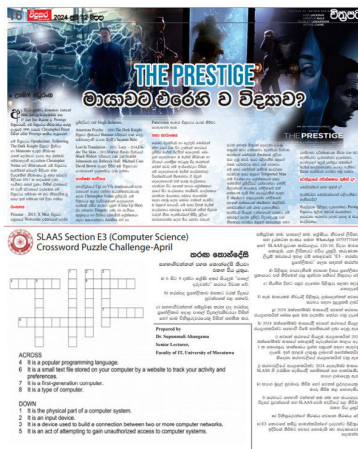
An article written by Dr. Supunmali Ahangama (Senior Lecturer, University of Moratuwa), was featured in "Vidusara" Science Magazine on June 12, 2024.

An article written by Mr. Dewmal Handapangoda, an AI and Software Development Specialist, was featured in "Vidusara" Science Magazine on July 24, 2024.



Crossword puzzles in "Vidusara" Science Magazine

Crossword puzzles related to ICT aimed at students from grade 6 to 9 were published in "Vidusara" Science Magazine on June 12 and July 24, 2024 by Dr. Supunmali Ahangama (Senior Lecturer, University of Moratuwa) and Mr. Chamila Karunathilaka (Lecturer at University of Sri Jayewardenepura), respectively.



Section F

A webinar on Deep Sea Mining

A webinar on Deep Sea Mining was successfully conducted on 5th April, in collaboration with Earth Lanka and Sustainable Ocean Alliance. Dr. Menuka Udugama and Dr. Dilanthi Korlagama participated as guest speakers, providing their expertise on the implications of deep-sea mining on marine ecosystems.

**Delving into the Depths:
Exploring Deep Sea Mining**
An Exclusive Webinar

earthlanka
YOUTH NETWORK

SOA

MS. MARY JANE LAMOSTE - ASIA REPRESENTATIVE, SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE
MS. SARANI RANAWERA - HUB LEADER, SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE SRI LANKA
DR. MENUKA UDUGAMA - WAYAMBA, UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DR. DILANTHI KORLAGAMA - UNIVERSITY OF BUHUNA

Date : 5th April 2024
Time : 7.00 pm

Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 924 2610 2455
Passcode: ner4ivSG

Come explore the mysteries of the deep with us!
Join us for an engaging webinar and dive into this fascinating topic with experts in the field.
Don't miss out!!!

organized by:
Section F: Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS)

A webinar on Biodiversity Credits

On April 25th, Dr. Shamen Vidanage organized a webinar on "Biodiversity Credits: Opportunities and Challenges," which was successfully conducted by Dr. Paul Steele, Chief Economist at Shaping Sustainable Markets, IIED. The event was held as a hybrid session and moderated by Dr. Menuka Udugama. Several experts in the field attended, contributing to a rich and insightful discussion.

HYBRID EVENT ON
BIODIVERSITY CREDITS FOR INVESTING IN NATURE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR SRI LANKA AND POTENTIAL PITFALLS

Biodiversity credits are an innovative financing instrument which, if properly designed, may be able to incentivise people to conserve nature. There are now over 50 biodiversity pilot schemes across the world. Sri Lanka has great potential for biodiversity credits, although an initial pilot was not successful so far. This webinar will discuss biodiversity credits' opportunities and pitfalls for Sri Lanka.

ORGANIZED BY SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION FOR FISHERIES & AQUATIC RESOURCES (SLAFAR) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE (SLAAS SECTION F) AND SRI LANKA AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION (SLAEA)

SPEAKER MR. PAUL STEELE
Paul is Chief Economist at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) focusing on a just transition to an inclusive green and blue economy. He has more than 30 years' experience working for international organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme, the European Union, the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the British and the Sri Lankan governments. Paul's recent work focuses on generating finance for climate and nature investments to benefit Indigenous People and rural households, including through debt swaps for climate and nature, biodiversity/nature certificates, climate budgeting and insurance.

REGISTER NOW!
Registration Deadline: 23rd April 2024

Limited seats available for physical participation
Priority will be given to those who register early

LOCATION: SLAAS BOARD ROOM

THURSDAY
25
APRIL

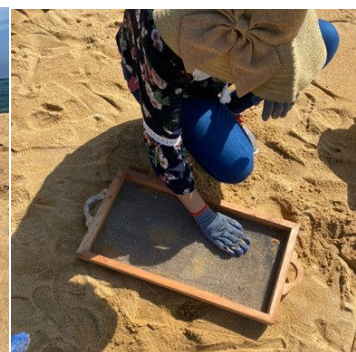
MODERATOR DR. MENUKA UDUGAMA
President SLAAS Section F
Dept of Agribusiness Management
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

11.30 AM to 12.30 PM
ZOOM LINK



Coastal Cleanup in Mirissa on April 26th

A cleanup event was conducted in Mirissa by SLAAS Section F in collaboration with Earth Lanka. Organized by Dr. Menuka Udugama, the event saw the participation of around 25 volunteers who actively contributed to cleaning the coastline, reinforcing the commitment to environmental stewardship.



A workshop on Natural Capital Accounting

Dr. Shamen Vidanage organized a workshop on natural capital accounting on April 25th. This event was held in partnership with the Global Ocean Accounting Partnership (GOAP), the Ministry of Environment, and IUCN. The workshop focused on the integration of natural capital into economic planning and policy.



Underwater Cleanup Event in Trincomalee

In celebration of World Oceans Day on June 8th, an underwater cleanup event was successfully conducted in Trincomalee. Organized by Dr. Menuka Udugama and Ms. Nethini Ganepola in collaboration with Earth Lanka and the Marine Environment Protection Agency (MEPA), the event saw the collection of almost 300 kilograms of waste, highlighting the importance of marine conservation efforts.



An article on 'Blue Economy' Published

Prof. Wasantha Rathnayake informed us that his article on the 'Blue Economy' was published in the 'Silumina' newspaper, contributing valuable insights to the ongoing dialogue on sustainable ocean resource management.

Environment Committee

A workshop on “Statistics for Biologists”

Four sessions of the seminar series on “Statistics for Biologists” was successfully held on 27th April, 18th May, 29th June, and 27th July 2024, respectively at the SLAAS headquarters and via Zoom. This was organized in collaboration with SLAAS section D as a fundraising event for the SLAAS sections. Participants were awarded with a certificate of participation.

Session 2 was on “Statistical Methods” conducted by Dr. R. Abeygunawardana, session 3 was on “Statistical Modeling” conducted by Dr. A. A. Sunethra, session 4 was on “Experimental Design” conducted by Dr. Dilshani Tissera and Dr. Rasika Jayatillake, and the session 5 was on “Multivariate Analysis” conducted by Dr. Gayan Dharmarathne.



“Mihinada” Padura



A Padura “Mihinada” was held on 5th June 2024 commemorating the World Environmental day. This was Coordinated by Ureshani Karanarathana collaborated with Section D. Undergraduate students from University of Sri Jayewardenepura provided the music. A photo album has already been released by the FOS media-UOC, who covered the event.

Mangrove planting event

A Mangrove plantation event was conducted jointly with National Aquatic Resources, Research and Development Agency (NARA) in the Dikowita along the Southern Highway, on 8th June 2024. MAS Pvt Ltd. provided the plants. Many parties including the local community and sponsors participated in the event. This was coordinated by Dr. Ureshani Karunaratne in collaboration with Section D.



Marine Harmony - Phase II Underwater Cleanup Programme

A successful under-water and shallow water clean up programme, "Marine Harmony - Phase II," was successfully held on May 27, 2024, at Mirissa. This was coordinated by Dr. Menuka Udugama in collaboration with Section F. This was done to commemorate the World Ocean day. They had collected approx. 300 kg of waste.



Beach Cleanup

Dr. Medha Gunaratna led the event in collaboration with the Humane Society of the University of Kelaniya and SLAAS -EC.



Inter-University Poster competition in collaboration with Section E2

On 1st of June, the inter university poster competition was held in collaboration with Section E2. The award for the "Best Green Poster" was awarded by the EC committee. University of Sri Jayewardenepura and NSBM Green University won the Green Award under the Theme 1 : Chemical Approaches for Sustainable Urban Waster and Theme 2 : Innovation in Nanotechnology for Clean Water Sanitation, respectively.

A webinar on Microplastics

A webinar on Microplastics impact on aquatic environment was successfully held on 24th May. The resource person was Dr. Shyamali Weerasekare, Principal Scientists/ Head of the Environmental Studies Division, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA)

The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with swirling patterns in shades of blue, green, and red. At the top right, there are two circular logos: one for NARA (National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency) and another for the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS). The main text reads "WEBINAR Impacts of Microplastics on Fish and Aquatic Organisms and Human Health". Below the text is a portrait of Dr. Shyamali Weerasekare. At the bottom, there is a calendar icon, the date "28th May 2024", a clock icon, and the time "7.00 to 8.00 pm". A URL for the Zoom meeting is provided, along with the meeting ID "949 4216 4598" and passcode "157EDED".

Dr. Shyamali Weerasekara
Principal Scientist/Head, Environmental Studies Division
National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA)

28th May 2024 7.00 to 8.00 pm

<https://eam.zoom.us/j/94942164598?pwd=TFNlZmZkZGZak2NlTVkASU0Nk2RRVCQyJT0>
Meeting ID: 949 4216 4598. Passcode: 157EDED

Section D & Environment committee of
Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) and
National Aquatic Resource Research and Development Agency (NARA)

Committee for Popularization of Science

Programmes conducted for school children

School Science Day Program in Aralaganwila, Polonnaruwa (Dimbulagala Education Zone)

The second school science day program organized by the CPS for the year 2024 was held on 14th June 2024 at the Mahaweli Auditorium, Aralaganwila, Polonnaruwa. Over 300 school students representing 14 schools in the Dimbulagala Education Zone participated in this program.



The students were able to listen to informative presentations on 'Identifying career opportunities for science students' conducted by Dr. Pasan Bandara, 'Obesity and Related Health Problems' by Prof. Jayantha Welihinda, and a brief overview on 'Microplastics' for awareness by Prof. Aashani Tillekaratne.

Po/Dim/Siripura Central College emerged as the winners of the quiz competition. Po/Dim/Maduruoya

The program was organized as a collaboration between SLAAS-CPS, Dimbulagala Zonal Education office, and Po/Dim/Vilayaya National School.

School Science Day Program in Batticaloa (Kalkudah Education Zone)

The third school science day program was held on 02nd of August 2024 at the Main Hall of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in Batticaloa with the participation of about 200 students from the Kalkudah Education zone. This program was organized in collaboration with the Eastern Chapter of SLAAS and the office of the Kalkudah Education Zone.

The students got the chance to listen to informative lectures on a variety of topics including the lecture on "Career opportunities for science students" done by Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa, the session on "Obesity and related health problems" by Prof. Jayantha Welihinda, a short discussion on "Microplastics" done by Prof. Aashani Tillekaratne, a lecture by Prof. R.F. Niranjana (Treasurer, Eastern Chapter of SLAAS) on "Importance of agriculture sector for the development of our country" and an interactive session on "Fitness for health and fun" along with a cheerful Zumba dance session



conducted by Dr. Gihani Jayaweera (Senior Lecturer, KDU and a licenced Zumba instructor).

The winner of the quiz competition was Bt/Kk/Valaichchenai Hindu College and the runners-up was Bt/Kk/Korakallimadu Sri Ramanamaharishi Vidyalaya. The winners will be awarded certificates at the Annual Sessions of SLAAS in December 2024.

All the lectures were translated into Tamil by the lecturers at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka and the quizzes were conducted in Tamil medium.

Nature diaries programme 2024 officially launched

Legendary nature diaries programme has been officially launched for the year 2024 with the workshops held on the 28th and 29th of June in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, and Rathnapura Districts. Initial informative sessions for the teachers were held in Anuradhapura Central College, Anuradhapura, Thopawewa National School, Polonnaruwa, and Sivali Central College, Rathnapura by Prof. Deepal Mathew.



“Be Better in Mathematics” programme (Ambalangoda)

A workshop on how to be better in mathematics was successfully conducted on 13th of June 2024 at the A/Dharmashoka College for A/L students representing about 15 schools. CPS/ Section E1 members Dr. Gaya Jayakody and Dr. Rajitha Silva participated as resource persons along with Prof. Shelton Perera. This program was organized by A/Dharmashoka College in collaboration with SLAAS-CPS and Section E1.

‘Talk to school’ programme

A timely event called ‘Talk to School’ collaboratively organized by the Young Members Section of Institute of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL), IESL Sabaragamuwa Chapter, SLAAS-CPS, Rathnapura Zonal Education Office, IESL Student Chapters of University of Peradeniya and University of Moratuwa, National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) was held on 17th July 2024 at R/Sivali Central College Main Hall. The event was participated by more than 150 A/L students of the physical science stream from ten schools in Rathnapura Education Zone who gathered to listen to valuable speeches about future of their careers. The event was graced by Eng. Dushyantha Wanniarachchi, President of the Young SSS of IESL, and Damith Angunawela, President of the IESL-Sabaragamuwa Chapter.

Talks were delivered on ‘Identifying career opportunities for physical science students’ conducted by Dr. Pasan Bandara (CPS), ‘Next gen education with AI’ by Dr. Shamane Siriwardane, ‘Entrepreneurship orientation’ by Mr. D.B. Jayathilake from NEDA. Two introductory sessions were conducted by the IESL Student Chapters of University of Peradeniya and University of Moratuwa as well.

Programmes conducted for General Public

Awareness Programme on Food Nutrition for Parents (Aralaganwila, Polonnaruwa)

Parallel to the school science day programme in Aralaganwila, an awareness programme on food nutrition was conducted for the parents of the school students. The programme was held on 14th June 2024 at Po/Dim/Vilayaya National School, Aralaganwila. Dr. Prarthana de Silva, Community Medical Officer in Siripura, Polonnaruwa conducted the session. She delivered a timely, informative, and interesting session on the basic aspects of food nutrition. There were some practical demonstrations to show how nutritious foods and beverages can be made from the locally sourced raw materials. Over 100 parents participated in the event.

The event was organized by the SLAAS-CPS and coordinated by Dr. Kaumadi Karunagoda and Dr. Himalee de Silva.

Publications in general and social media platforms

Science Talks – Podcast Series

First three episodes of the Science Talks Podcast series presented by the CPS are now available on SLAAS YouTube channel. These podcasts were recorded in March at the University of Colombo, with the technical assistance of FOS Media, the official media unit of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo. The podcasts can be viewed at the following links.

Episode 1: Prof. Chandana Jayaratne (විද්‍යාව ප්‍රවලිත කිරීම සඳහා තාරකා විද්‍යාව; අහස සෑම කෙනෙකුගේම පළමු විද්‍යාගාරයයි) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmEbI98M79s>

Episode 2: Prof. Sampath Seneviratne (වෙනස් වන ලොවක නොවෙනස් වන විවිධත්වය; පක්ෂි විද්‍යාව, පක්ෂි පර්යන්තය, සහ සංරක්ෂණ කටයුතු) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuwxFa33oKI>

Episode 3: Prof. Nalin de Silva and Prof. Rohini De Silva (වර්තමාන ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ විද්‍යා ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ වෘත්තීයක නියැලීම; අභියෝග සහ අවස්ථා) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAE4S5Ip6cM>

A webinar on Ayurvedic Rasa Medicine

A live webinar on “Ayurvedic Rasa Medicine” was successfully held on 26th of June 2024 via Zoom platform. Dr. Nirasha Gunaratna, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine was the resource person and she introduced and highlighted the importance of Ayurveda Rasa Medicine while describing their applications, and use of scientific methods in characterizing Rasa medicine. There were about 75 participants joining online. The video recording of the webinar is now available on the YouTube page of SLAAS. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaVkm-fc4Y8>)

Articles published in Vidusara magazine

Three new newspaper articles on science-related subjects were published in Vidusara in the recent months. Article on “ගණිතය ඇත්තටම අමාරුද?” by Dr. Gaya Jayakody was published on 1st of May 2024 while the article on “ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ මුහුදු තෘණ” by Dr. Sameera Samarasekara was published on 29th of May 2024. Article on “මමේ පාසලටත් ඔහු උයනක්” by Dr. Kaumadi Karunagoda was published in Vidusara Newspaper on 26th of June 2024.

Ongoing competitions organized by SLAAS-CPS

SciToon Cartoon Competition launched

SLAAS-CPS launched the ‘SciToon Cartoon Competition’ as an effort to promote the SLAAS theme of the year 2024, ‘Harnessing the Power of Sciences for Societal Transformation’. The competition will be conducted under two main sections: ‘school section’ and ‘other section’. The submission deadline is 31st of August 2024. Winners from each category will be awarded with certificates at the SLAAS annual sessions. Further details about the competition can be found at SLAAS website. Link: https://test.slaas.lk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/SLAAS-CPS-SciToon-Competition-Flyer_2024Jul17.pdf

‘Vidujaya quiz’ questions published in Vidusara

New Vidujaya quiz round was started in May and two questions have been posted since then. Vidujaya quiz is well received by the readers of Vidusara covering wide range of ages. CPS plans to conduct several more quiz questions in the coming months before moving to the next round of the quiz competition.

Teacher training programmes at Ananda College, Colombo

Two teacher training programmes were conducted at Ananda College, Colombo. The Mathematics programme was conducted by Dr. Gaya Jayakody (CPS) and Prof. Shelton Perera on the 7th of May 2024 and the Science programme was conducted by Prof. Chamari Hettiarachchi (CPS) and Prof. M.N. Kaumal on the 15th of May 2024.



General Research Committee

A webinar on “Understand and Avoiding the Pitfalls of Predatory Journals”

This webinar was held on 26th April 2024, from 10:00 am–12:00 pm. Around 30 participants joined the webinar. This webinar was organized in collaboration with Section B and AGRITS Society of the Open University of Sri Lanka. The resource person for this seminar was Dr. P. Wijethunga. This seminar was organized by Dr. Buddhika Aruggoda.

A webinar on “Patent searching and IP management”

The webinar was held on 31st May from 10:00 am to 12.00 pm. Around 40 participants joined the seminar. This webinar was organized in collaboration with Section B. The resource person for this webinar was Ms. Vindhya Wijesinghe. This seminar was organized by Dr. R.M.N.A. Wijewardane.

A half-day workshop on “Use of freeware for analyzing data and presenting results for academic writing”

The workshop was held on 31st May from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm at SLAAS Auditorium with the attendance of around 30 participants. The resource person for this workshop was Prof. M.N. Kaumal, Department of Chemistry University of Colombo. The seminar was organized by Prof. Shiromi Karunaratne, chairperson, GRC.



A panel discussion on “Shaping the Future: Policies for Generative AI in Sri Lankan Higher Education”

A Panel discussion on “Shaping the Future: Policies for Generative AI in Sri Lankan Higher Education” was held on 20th June from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Around 260 participants joined. This discussion was organized in collaboration with Section E3.

A webinar on “Navigating the Research Grant Application Process- Strategies for Success”

A Webinar on “Navigating the Research Grant Application Process- Strategies for Success” was held on 24th June at 9:00 pm. Around 90 persons participated in this webinar. This was organized in collaboration with Section A. This webinar was organized and conducted by Dr. Inoka Sandanayake.

General Research Committee
Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS)

Use of freeware for analyzing data and presenting results for academic writing

Prof. MN Kaumal
Department of Chemistry
University of Colombo

Sharing more than 25 years of academic and research experience!

31st May 2024 1.00 pm – 4.30 pm SLAAS Auditorium Colombo 07

Rs. 1500.00 Register on or before 30th May 2024

Digital Certificate of Participation
Refreshments will be provided

<https://forms.gle/8mnp2v3u3k3o3a3a>

Committee on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies

World Migratory Bird Day 2024 Seminar

The third seminar of the SLAAS seminar series on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary studies (IDTDS) 2024 was held on 13th May 2024 as a hybrid event. Prof. Sandun Perera, Professor in Biogeography and Environmental Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and Mrs. Indrachapa Weerasingha, Lecturer in Tourism & Cultural Resource Management, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya joined as the invited speakers for the Seminar.

Prof. Sandun Perera highlighted the geographical and ecological drivers of bird migration. He highlighted the rich avian migration we could experience in Sri Lanka drawing examples and interesting research findings of the Sri Lankan scientists in the field. On the other hand, Mrs. Indrachapa Weerasingha sparked an interesting discussion about the arrival of migratory birds in Sri Lanka as a phenomenon that has not yet been under-explored by the Sri Lankan tourism industry. She focused on the potentials, socio-economic benefits, and various challenges in promoting

World Environment Day 2024 Seminar

The fourth seminar of the SLAAS seminar series on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary studies (IDTDS) 2024 was held on 7th June 2024 Commemorating World Environment Day 2024 which fell on 5th June 2024. The seminar was held as a hybrid event. Vidya Jothi Emeritus Professor Sarath W. Kotagama, Former head of the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo and Dr.



Niranga Alahacoon, Researcher in Remote Sensing and Disaster Risks, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Council Member, National Research Council (NRC) joined as the invited speakers.

Aligning with the yearly theme of World Environment Day 2024, the speakers discussed their thoughts on "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience". Professor Sarath W. Kotagama indicated the necessity of integrating various disciplines such as science, sociology, economy, and ecology. He analyzed how strong is the effect of human activities on

destruction of natural ecosystems and how hard is to restore the original ecosystems through unscientific corrective activities. He also indicated the power of citizen science and how to utilize it in restoration and conservation efforts.

World Youth Skills Day 2024 Seminar

Commemorating World Youth Skills Day 2024, a seminar titled "Building Today's Youth for the Future" was held on the 15th July 2024 from 4:30 pm onward at the SLAAS Auditorium and via Zoom. It was conducted as the fifth seminar of the SLAAS Seminar Series on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies. Prof. Rohan Munasinghe, Professor, Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa and Dr. Ruchira Wijesena, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa joined as the invited speakers.

Dr. Ruchira Wijesena indicated the qualities to be embodied by young individuals to secure employment and also to drive innovation while contributing significantly to their organizations. Prof. Rohan Munasinghe delivered an eye-opening speech on how to manage work and face challenges in tough times. He talked extensively about matters related to mental health and overcoming such problems.



"Harnessing the Power of Sciences for Societal Transformation"

Chapter News

Eastern Chapter

Science Popularization Activities

Science Workshops: Ongoing practical workshops were held in various schools, including Unagalawehera Maha Vidyalaya in Polonnaruwa and Denike Secondary School, reaching students across multiple grades. These activities were conducted by Dr. P R Fernando from Eastern University, Sri Lanka, who plays a pivotal role in guiding students through complex scientific concepts, thereby enhancing their practical knowledge and interest in science.

Science Day Program: The Science Day Program was organized by the Committee for the Popularization of Science (CPS), Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) and SLAAS Eastern Chapter on 2nd of August, 2024, at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, attracting 250 students and 23 teachers. The event focused on engaging underprivileged schools within the Kalkudah education zone, igniting a passion for science among participants.

Webinar and Seminars in 2024

Machine Learning and Data Science Workshops: A two-day workshop on machine learning and data science was conducted by Dr. M A C Akmal Jahan from South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, providing valuable insights into cutting-edge technologies.

From Waste to Wealth: Embracing Cleaner Production Practices: One day workshop for Undergraduates, Faculty of Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, conducted by Mrs Devaki Rodrigo, Manager, Laboratory at Dipped Products PLC.

GUEST LECTURE ON
FROM WASTE TO WEALTH:
EMBRACING CLEANER PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Date: 1st August 2024
Time: 11:30 - 12:30 PM
Mode: ZOOM
Meeting ID: 963 598 2480
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/9635982480>

Mrs. Devaki Rodrigo,
Manager,
Laboratory at Dipped Products PLC.

ORGANIZED BY
CENTER FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
COLLABORATION WITH
SLAAS EASTERN CHAPTER
AND
FACULTY OF SCIENCE,
EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA.

Innovations in the field of Artificial Intelligence Webinar: One day webinar on Innovations in the field of Artificial Intelligence was conducted by Dr. M A C Akmal Jahan from South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, providing valuable insights into cutting-edge technologies.

Future Endeavors

Looking ahead, the SLAAS Eastern Chapter is planning an International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Data Science, further establishing the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, as a center for scientific advancement and innovation. Through its dedicated activities and programs, the SLAAS Eastern Chapter is playing a crucial role in fostering a culture of scientific inquiry and technological innovation in the Eastern Province, ensuring that the region contributes meaningfully to Sri Lanka's scientific landscape.

MACHINE LEARNING AND DATA SCIENCE
MASTERING THE FUNDAMENTALS

A Two-day workshop on Machine Learning and Data Science with hands-on practicals.

Session 1
Basic Machine Learning Algorithms

Session 2
Data Science Fundamentals

Session 3
Natural Language Processing

Session 4
Neural Networks & Deep Learning

Dr. MAC Akmal Jahan
Senior Lecturer in Computer Science
Department of Computer Science
Faculty of Applied Sciences
South Eastern University
of Sri Lanka

Workshop Fee: LKR 10,000

27th & 28th April 2024

Registration: 9 AM to 4 PM

Department of Computer Science
Faculty of Applied Sciences
SEUSL

More Information:
076 9046884

Organized By
Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science
in Collaboration with South Eastern University of Sri Lanka
Eastern Chapter-Section E3

AI
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
PRESENT & FUTURE
A WEBINAR ON INNOVATIONS IN THE FIELD OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Date : 17th July 2024
Time : 10:00 AM via Zoom.
To whom : Undergraduates & Academics

Speaker :
Dr. M. A. C Akmal Jahan
Senior Lecturer in Computer Science
Department of Computer Science
Faculty of Applied Sciences
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Registration:

Organized By
Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science
Eastern Chapter-Section E3

An effort to instil in young minds, an unparalleled curiosity about science!
Formulated by Section E2 of SLAAS and available for purchase at the SLAAS office.



A science kit where about 20 simple and exciting experiments are housed in an attractive carry-on box. It serves as a do-it-yourself model to a laboratory setting where instructions are available.

For more details please visit :
https://www.slaas.lk/Science_Kit.php

Or Contact: Dr. Laksiri Weerasinghe
(mobile: 0775401882)

To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of SLAAS, a selection of exclusive souvenir items are available to you !

How to order:

Select the items you wish to purchase.

Send your order request to [hqslaas@gmail.com]
with the item name, quantity, and your contact information.



Now available at
SLAAS office
Limited stock

Rs. 1000/-

Rs. 1000/-

Rs. 500/-

Commemorative cover
with stamp is available
after the
29th of July

Rs. 2000/-

Collect now..
for reservation
0112 688740

Celebrating 80 years
of SLAAS

A promotional graphic for SLAAS 80th anniversary souvenirs. It features a white baseball cap with the SLAAS logo and "SLAAS Founded in 1944" printed on it, priced at Rs. 1000/-. Next to it is a white mug with the SLAAS logo and "Anniversary 80 Years of SLAAS" printed on it, also priced at Rs. 1000/-. Below these is a commemorative cover with a stamp, priced at Rs. 500/-. A pair of glasses is also shown, priced at Rs. 2000/-. The background is a gradient of yellow and orange with a red circular graphic element. Text at the top says "Now available at SLAAS office Limited stock". Text at the bottom says "Collect now.. for reservation 0112 688740". The overall theme is "Celebrating 80 years of SLAAS".

Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science
"Vidya Mandiraya"
120/10
Wijerama Mawatha
Colombo 07