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SLAAS NEWS

Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science

General President's Message

It is my honor to share this message in the inaugural SLAAS newsletter of 2025. As outlined during my induction, our theme for this year is **"Empowering the Underprivileged through the Popularization of Science and Technology."**

Despite Sri Lanka having over 20 institutions dedicated to science and technology, rural areas lack sufficient initiatives beyond agriculture. With over 40% of the GDP concentrated in the Western Province, regional disparities in science education must be addressed. Currently, less than 10% of schools offer Advanced Level science, and many districts face shortages of IT teachers and laboratory facilities. This has led to low enrollment of students in science streams and high dropout rates after the Ordinary Level examination, particularly among boys. Additionally, Sri Lanka's science and technology workforce remains underdeveloped, comprising only 6% of professionals, which is far below global standards.

To bridge these gaps, SLAAS has launched several initiatives:

- **Regional Exhibitions:** In collaboration with institutions such as the University of Vocational Technology (UoVT) and the Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLIC).
- **Student Invention Exhibitions:** Featuring a national-level contest at the University of Moratuwa.
- **Science Day Programs:** Including expert talks, quiz competitions, and sharing success stories.
- **Teacher Training Workshops:** Focusing on STEM education and practical applications.

Inspired by successful global initiatives, we aim to introduce mobile labs, free workshops, and community engagement programs to expand access to science education. SLAAS, with over 80 years of expertise across multiple scientific disciplines, invites proposals and partnerships from institutions and individuals. The recently concluded Industry Interaction Day was an initiative to explore collaboration opportunities.

Now is the time for collective action. Science and technology hold the power to uplift underprivileged communities, drive economic growth, and create a more equitable future. SLAAS remains committed to fostering the next generation of scientists and innovators.



Prof. Udeni P. Nawagamuwa
Department of Civil Engineering
Faculty of Engineering
University of Moratuwa

Induction of General President 2025

Professor Udeni P. Nawagamuwa, Professor in Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, was inducted as the 84th General President of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) at a ceremony held on 07th January 2025 at the Gall Face Hotel, Colombo 02. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, graced the occasion as the chief guest and Prof. Gomika Udugamasooriya, the President's Senior Advisor on Science and Technology, was the guest of honour at this elegant occasion. Professor Udeni P. Nawagamuwa declared *"Empowering the Underprivileged Through the Popularization of Science and Technology"* as the theme for the year 2025.



"Empowering the Underprivileged through the Popularization of Science and Technology"

Empowering Women in Science: SLAAS Women's Day Celebration

The Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) hosted a remarkable Women's Day celebration, highlighting the contributions and challenges of women in STEM fields. Distinguished female professionals and aspiring scientists from various organizations, including the University Grants Commission, Advanced Technological Institute, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (SLNC-OWSD), Fairway Biotech (Pvt) Ltd, Women in Engineering Institute of Electrical and Electronic engineering (WIE-IEEE), Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA), The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS), and Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE), participated in this inspiring event.



Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa, SLAAS General President, delivered the opening remarks, setting the stage for a meaningful discussion. Ms. Inoka Liyanagama, a Director at MAS Holdings, gave a keynote address on leadership and innovation, encouraging young women in science. The highlight of the event was a panel discussion, "Women in Science – Overcoming Challenges and Paving the Path Forward," moderated by Prof. Ramanee D Wijesekera, featuring leaders like Ms. Gayani de Alwis, Dr. Chandanamali Punchihewa, and Ms. Anuradha Amarakoon. They shared their journeys, insights on gender equality, leadership, and professional growth.

Dr. Charithri Yapa emphasized the need for continued support for women in STEM. Sponsored by organizations like Unilever and Hemas, the event concluded with a networking session, fostering connections and inspiring future generations. This celebration reinforced the importance of inclusion and empowerment in scientific communities.



Council 2025

Name	Position	Name	Position
Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa	General President	Prof. Theshini Perera	Elected Member
Dr. S. P. Weligamage	General President - Elect	Prof. M.N. Kaumal	Elected Member
Prof. R.D. Wijsekera	Immediate Past General President	Dr. Jeevani Dahanayake	President, Section A
Dr. A. M. Mubarak	Chairman, BOT	Dr. R. Weerasinghe	President, Section B
Dr. Russel de Silva	General Secretary	Dr. G.M.C.P. Jayawardana	President, Section C
Dr. Iresha Atthanayake	General Secretary	Dr. D. Halwatura	President, Section D
Prof. Dilrukshi Wijayarathna	Treasurer	Dr. G.N. Jayakody	President, Section E1
Dr. Menaka Ranasinghe	Asst. Treasurer	Dr. Dinusha Udukala	President, Section E2
Dr. Sajani Dias	Editor	Dr. L.P. Kalansooriya	President, Section E3
Dr. Vindhya Kulasena	Asst. Editor	Mr. Dhanesh Wisumperuma	President, Section F
Prof. Bandunee Athapattu	Secretary, Int. Relations	Prof. S. Vasanthapriyan	Chairman , GRC
Dr. Lochandaka Ranathunga	Elected Member	Dr. Menuka Udugama	Chairperson, EC
Prof. K.P.S. Chandana Jayaratne	Elected Member	Dr Sameera Samarasekara	Chairperson, CPS
Dr. R. Chinthaka L. De Silva	Elected Member	Prof. G. D. Kapila Kumara	Sabaragamuwa Chapter
Prof. Chamari Hettiarachchi	Elected Member	Prof. Sunanda Kodikara	Ruhuna Chapter
Dr. Lakmal Weerawarne	Elected Member	Eng. T. Vinothraj	Eastern Chapter
Prof. Aashani Tillekaratne	Elected Member	Prof. T.M.W.J. Bandara	Central Capter
Prof. W.A.P.J. Premaratne	Elected Member		

Section A

Workshops

A workshop on 'Updating Knowledge on Herbal Medicine and Research for BAMS and BUMS undergraduates' was held on 23rd January 2025 at the Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo with Prof. Kamal Perera, Dean, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine and Dr. Aruni Gallage, Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine as resource persons. There were 110 undergraduate participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. J. M. Dahanayake.



An awareness session on 'HIV/AIDS for Ayurveda Medical undergraduates' was held on 11th February 2025 with Dr. Nalaka Kulathunge, Senior Registrar in Venereology, Ministry of health as the resource person. There were 58 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Nalaka Kulathunge and Dr. J. M. Dahanayake.



APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ENHANCING DAILY PRACTICE FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Resource Person
Dr. Chamika H. Senanayake
(MBBS, MSc, MD – Health Informatics)
Consultant in Health Informatics,
Ministry of Health

Moderator
Dr. Nimal Wijegoonawardene
Specialist in Community Medicine

WEBINAR
Monday,
24th February 2025
7.00 PM to 8.00 PM

Organized by:
Section A of
Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS)
Join Via:
<https://www.zoom.us/j/9989922120?pwd=Zm9udG91aW5kdjZkdz09>
Meeting ID: 941 9560 2236
Passcode: NAAghWn

Webinar

A webinar for healthcare professionals on the "Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare Professionals" was conducted on 24th February 2025 at 7.00 pm with Dr. Chamika H. Senanayake, Consultant in Health informatics, Ministry of Health as the resource person. There were 110 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Sinha De Silva and Dr. N. Wijegoonawardene.

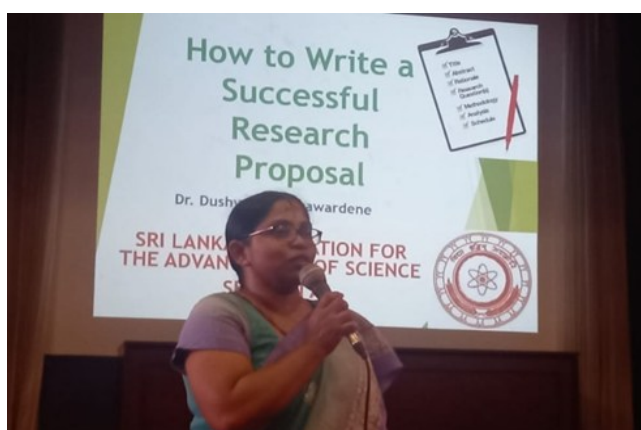
Lunch time talk



A lunch time talk on “Biochar” was conducted in collaboration with section E2 for undergraduate students of Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo on 27th February 2025 with Dr. Sameera R. Gunathilaka of SLAAS section E2. There were 35 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. J. M. Dahanayake.



Research Methodology Lecture Series



A research methodology lecture series was conducted for the undergraduate students of Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of



Colombo from 04th March to 10th March 2025. Past section A presidents: Prof. P.K. Perera, Dr. D. Jayawardane and section A member, Dr. Nimali Wijegoonawardene were the resource persons.



There were 178 participants. This activity was coordinated by Dr. J. M. Dahanayake and Dr. Dushyanthi Jayawardane.

Section C

Workshop

SLAAS Section C representatives participated in a workshop organized by the Technology Education Division of the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education, from 19th to 21st February 2025. The workshop was held at the South Asian Centre for Teacher Development in Meepe, aimed to develop teacher training modules on Interactive Teaching Practices by Online, Distance Learning and Blended Learning.



SLAAS Section C representatives participated in a workshop organized by the Commerce Education Division of the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education, on the 27th February 2025. The workshop, held at the South Asian Centre for Teacher Development in Meepe, aimed to develop teacher training modules on Interactive Teaching Practices by Online, Distance Learning and Blended Learning.

Discussions

A discussion with officials of the Technical Education Division of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education was held on 21st March 2025. The discussion focused on organizing a series of programs on the theme "Importance of Science, Technology, and Engineering (STE) education in individual and national progress".



Another discussion was held with the officials of Vidatha Division, Ministry of Science and Technology. The discussion was focused on the collaboration work regarding science and technology outreach to the village communities.

Webinar

A webinar titled "Wewa-Ellangawa System: A Blueprint for Indigenous Technology in Sustainable Water Utilization" was conducted on 25th February 2025 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The presenters were Eng. Janaka Priyantha from the Department of Irrigation and Eng. Dilini Gamage from the Ceylon Electricity Board. Approximately 53 participants attended the webinar, which provided exposure to the components and functions of ancient village tank cascade systems and their potential contributions to present application.

Webinar

Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science
Section C

Wewa-Ellangawa System

A Blueprint for Indigenous Technology in Sustainable Water Utilization

The Wewa-Ellangawa system is an ancient Sri Lankan hydrological application designed to optimize water management strategies. This interconnected network of wewas (reservoirs) regulates water flow, prevents floods, and conserves soil. It enhances groundwater recharge, biodiversity, and climate resilience, sustaining water utilization and ecosystems. Despite its effectiveness, modernization has led to its decline. However, with rising concerns over water scarcity and food security, there is renewed interest in reviving and integrating this indigenous system with modern techniques. This presentation highlights its historical significance and potential as a sustainable irrigation solution for the future.

Eng. Dilini Gamage
B.Sc. Eng. (Hons)
H.Sc. Eng.
(Geotechnical Engineering)
C.Eng. MIE (SL), M.ASCE

Eng. Janaka Priyantha
B.Sc. Eng. (Hons)
H.Sc. Eng.
(Geotechnical Engineering)
C.Eng. MIE (SL), CPEng (Australia),
APEC, NEER/ANZAS, MPP (SL)

Meeting ID: 930 6434 8438
Passcode: 7f25g6aa

Join on
25/02/2025
@ 7.00 p.m

WEWA-ELLANGAWA SYSTEM:
A BLUEPRINT FOR INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY IN SUSTAINABLE WATER UTILIZATION

INTRODUCTION

WEWA ELLANGAWA SYSTEM
A Blueprint for Indigenous Technology in Sustainable Water Utilization

Combining traditional wisdom with modern innovations is key to sustainable water utilization

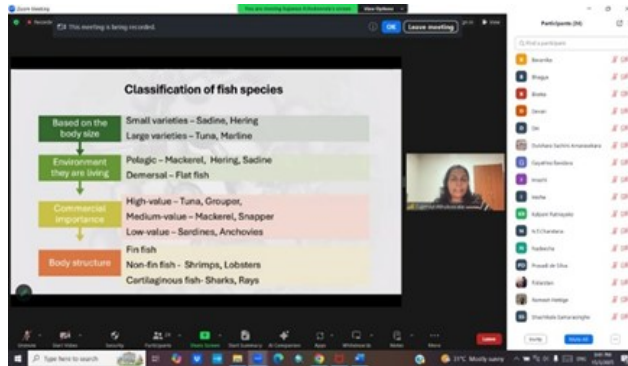
DILINI GAMAGE

Eng. Janaka Priyantha

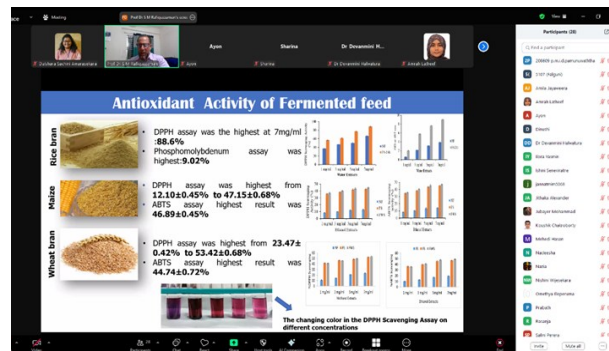
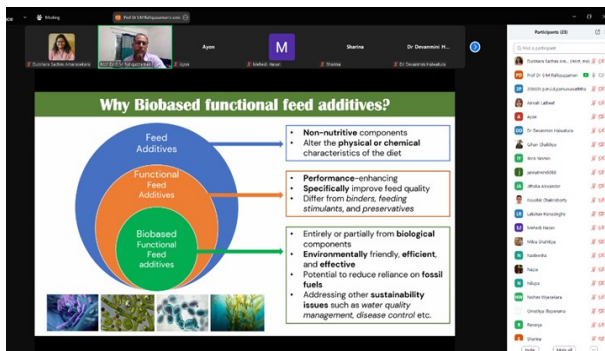
Section D

Webinar

The Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) Section D, in collaboration with the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), successfully conducted a webinar on “Key Physical Features for Identifying Commercially Important Fish” on the 15th of March 2025 from 7 to 8 pm. This session was led by Dr. Sujeewa Athukorala, a Senior Scientist at NARA, who shared her extensive expertise in fisheries science explaining the distinguishing features that help differentiate between species of high commercial value. The webinar attracted a diverse audience, including fisheries and marine biology students, researchers, and academics.



On 26th February 2025, a session on sustainable aquaculture was conducted, featuring Professor S. M. Rafiquzzaman from the Faculty of Fisheries, Gazipur Agricultural University (GAU), Bangladesh. The event explored innovative and eco-friendly solutions for the future of aquaculture, focusing on bio-based, plant-based feedstuffs as a potential climate-friendly alternative for intensive fish farming. During the session he elaborated on the role of plant-based feed in reducing aquaculture's carbon footprint, the potential of seaweed as a sustainable and nutrient-rich feed ingredient, advancements in eco-friendly feed formulations for enhanced fish growth and health, and research insights on sustainable fish nutrition and environmental benefits. Nearly 40 participants including researchers, aquaculture professionals, and students joined the webinar.



Discussion

On March 14, 2025, the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) and the Sri Lanka Laboratory Animal Science Association (SLALAS) jointly organized a discussion on “Ethics in Wild and Laboratory Animal Research”. This collaborative event was conducted at the SLAAS

auditorium bringing together leading experts in the field to address the ethical considerations surrounding animal research. The discussion panel featured Prof. Mangala Gunatilake, Prof. Ashoka Dangolla, and Prof. Sampath Seneviratne, with Prof. Sugandhika Suresh moderating the session.

Prof. Gunatilake focused on ethical considerations in laboratory animal research, emphasizing the importance of implementing the 3Rs principle (Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement) and identifying proper endpoints in scientific studies. Prof. Dangolla and Prof. Seneviratne addressed the ethical challenges in wild animal research, exploring issues such as habitat disturbance, conservation ethics, and responsible handling of wildlife. Prof. Dangolla also delved into the complex ethical dilemmas surrounding animals brought to clinics, whether domestic or wild. He highlighted the moral responsibilities of veterinarians and researchers in treating and studying these animals while ensuring their well-being. Prof. Seneviratne further stressed the importance of obtaining proper clearance from relevant authorities when conducting research on animals in protected forest areas or under the jurisdiction of different governing bodies. During the Q&A session, students got the opportunity to clarify their doubts and raise questions, deepening their understanding of the ethical treatment of animals in both wild and laboratory settings.

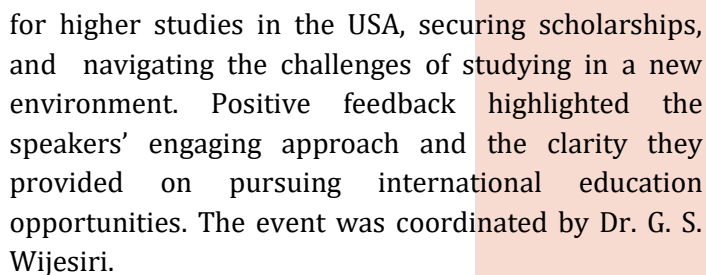
A key takeaway from the discussion was the urgent need for enacting an Animal Welfare Act in Sri Lanka, a step that would provide clear guidelines and legal backing for ethical animal research and care.



Section E1

Webinar

The first webinar of the *University Launchpad: Your Path to Success* series, *Dream Big: Exploring Higher Education Opportunities in the USA*, took place on January 18th 2025, drawing over 140 participants, including undergraduates from the Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya, students from other universities, and recent graduates aspiring to study abroad. Organized by the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Science in collaboration with Section E1-SLAAS, the session aimed to inspire students to think big about their academic futures. Dr. Kumudu Mallawa Arachchi (Lecturer, Iowa State University, USA) and Dr. Pushpi Paranamana (Assistant Professor, Saint Mary's College, USA) shared their personal journeys and provided valuable insights on applying



On February 14th, an education and skill development training program for O/L Mathematics teachers was successfully held at Bishop's College, Colombo, in collaboration with MetaHub. The session, coordinated by Dr. Gaya Jayakody, featured expert resource persons, including Dr. Gaya Jayakody and Dr. Shelton Perera, who provided valuable insights into effective teaching methodologies and strategies to enhance students' mathematical understanding. With 25 participants in attendance, the program aimed to equip teachers with innovative techniques to make mathematics more engaging and accessible for students. The interactive nature of the session encouraged knowledge sharing, allowing educators to discuss challenges and explore practical solutions to improve classroom teaching.



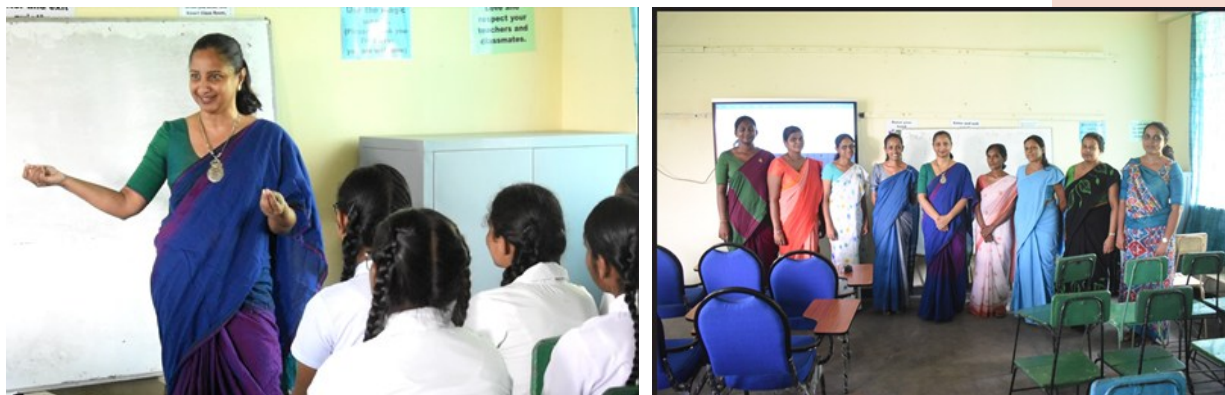
On February 19, 2025, the Physics Colloquium Series Lecture on *Ultrafast Dynamics of Charge Carriers in Semiconductor Materials* was held at the Department of Physics, University of Colombo, in collaboration with the Physics Society. Coordinated by Dr. W. A. M. Madhavi, the session featured Dr. Thanuja Sooriyagoda as a key speaker. The lecture attracted 50 undergraduate and 10 postgraduate students, along with researchers and academics, providing them with valuable insights into the fast-evolving field of semiconductor physics. The engaging discussion highlighted recent advancements and experimental techniques, offering attendees a deeper understanding of charge carrier dynamics in modern materials.



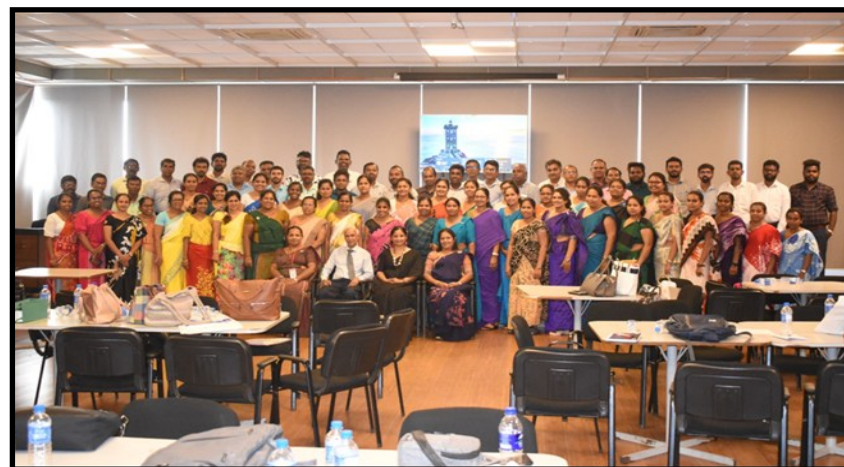
On March 4, 2025, Dr. Rajitha M. Silva, a member of the Section E1 committee, conducted a workshop on "Introduction to Probability" at St. Xavier's College, Marawila, with invited students from St. Sebastian's College, Katuneriya. The event aimed to provide A/L Combined Mathematics students with access to specialized academic support, particularly in schools where such opportunities are limited. The session, attended by 35 students, began with a thorough explanation of key theoretical concepts, followed by an interactive problem-solving session focusing on A/L examination questions. Assisted by academic support staff, Dr. Silva engaged students in a structured yet dynamic learning experience, which was met with highly positive feedback.



On March 12, 2025, a model lesson on "Logarithms" was conducted at Artigala Balika Maha Vidyalaya, Kesbewa, as a collaborative effort between Section E1 and MetaHub. Coordinated by Dr. Gaya Jayakody, the session aimed to enhance the understanding of logarithms among Grade 11 students while also providing Mathematics teachers from Grades 10 and 11 with innovative teaching strategies. The interactive lesson, attended by 25 students and 8 teachers, combined theoretical explanations with practical problem-solving exercises, ensuring an engaging and comprehensive learning experience. Participants responded positively to the session, appreciating the structured approach and real-world applications that made complex concepts more accessible.



On March 14, 2025, a special one-day program was held at the Ministry of Education to mark the International Day of Mathematics, bringing together over 100 participants, including A/L and O/L Mathematics teachers, NCoE lecturers, and education officials. Organized by Section E1 in collaboration with MetaHub, under the patronage of the Ministry of Education, the event was coordinated by Dr. Gaya Jayakody and featured sessions led by Dr. Gaya Jayakody and Dr. Shelton Perera.

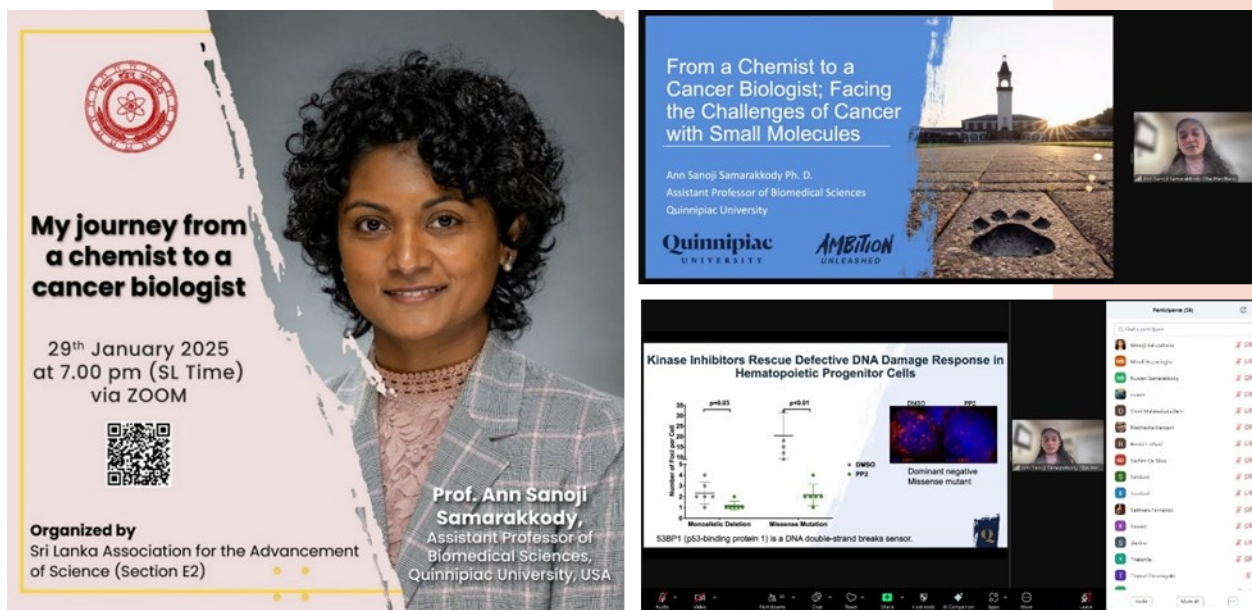


The program focused on enhancing mathematics education through innovative teaching methods and curriculum development, while also encouraging collaboration among educators. The interactive discussions provided a platform for sharing ideas and strategies, leaving participants with valuable insights to apply in their classrooms.

Section E2

Webinar

A webinar was organized on the topic of “My journey from a chemist to a cancer biologist” on 29th January at 7.00 p.m. via Zoom. Prof. Ann Sanoji Samarakkody, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Sciences, Quinnipiac University, USA, served as the resource person and she elaborated on her journey from a chemistry graduate to a scientist who extensively does cancer research which was inspiring to the undergraduate students who joined. This event was coordinated by Dr. Ranmal Gunatilake an Executive Committee Member of the Section E2/ SLAAS.



Lunch Time Talk

A lunch time talk on “Biochar: Beyond Mainstream Applications” was organized in collaboration with section A and the unit of Research and Development of Natural Products (URDNP), The Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo, on 27th February, from 12.15 – 1.15 p.m. Dr. Ranmal Gunatilake, senior lecturer, Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon, served as the resource person who delivered a speech on the new applications of biochar deviating from the traditional applications. From Section E2, SLAAS, this event was coordinated by Dr. Dinusha Udukala, President, Section E2 and Dr. Ranmal Gunatilake, an Executive Committee Member of the Section E2/ SLAAS.



Workshop

The Little Alchemy programme was organized to trigger the interest in the science of the kids ages 5-10 on 1st March 2025 at the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayawardenepura. Childhood experiences lay the foundation for producing young inventors in the future. Hence, the kids got hands-on experience in doing many science-related experiments. They enjoyed the event and experienced the basics through games and discoveries. Dr. Sumudu Mapa and Dr. Udayagee Kumarasinghe, Senior Lecturers from the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, and their team members T.G. Chathura Madusanka, K.G.M.K. Gunawardhana, L.W. Dahanayaka, Sanduni Piyumasha Kodippili, P. V. N. N. Ranasinghe, U. M. Dananjaya, W.M.A.T. Wanninayaka, and S.H.I.S. Gunasiri served as the resource person for this event. This event was coordinated by Dr. C. C. Kadigamuwa, the Vice President of Section E2/ SLAAS.

Little Alchemy

KIDS' SCIENCE WORKSHOP

Spark curiosity, inspire young minds!

Who can join?
Curious young minds (Ages 5 – 10)

Date Saturday, 1st March 2025

Time From 09.00 am - 11.00 am

Venue Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Why do you join this?

- ✓ Fun hands-on experiments
- ✓ Learn through play & discovery

Register Now:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesY9OFKbVD3YYsgn6g73U589hMfhbRucRm-euIwnyrcW61A/viewform?usp=dialog>
 Contact Information: Dr. Sumudu Mapa @ +94 76 412 1983 or sumudu.mapa@sjp.ac.lk

Organized by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) Section E2



A hands-on workshop on some selected advanced scientific instruments, powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD), Fourier transformed infra-red spectroscopy (FT-IR), thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) and differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was conducted on Saturday, the 15th of March from 8.00 am – 1.00 p.m. at the Instrument Center, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Dr. Saranga Diyabalanage and Dr. Asitha Cooray of the Faculty of Applied Sciences representing the Instrument Center and the Department of Chemistry, respectively, and Dr. Janitha Walpita, from the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, University of Sri Jayewardenepura served

as the resource persons for this workshop. It was a very successful workshop with an engagement of 30 participants. This event was coordinated by Dr. Laksiri Weerasinghe and Dr. Upul Kumarasinghe, Senior Lecturers of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



Workshop On Advanced Scientific Instruments

Saturday, 15th March 2025
9.00 a.m to 12.00 p.m.

At Instrument Center, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Sample Preparation & Characterization

- PXRD
- FT-IR
- TGA-DSC

For Whom

- R & D Officers
- Undergraduate & postgraduate students
- Researchers in government & private institutes
- Technical officers in universities and other laboratories

Register before 8th March 2025

Resource Persons:
Dr. Janitha Walpita
Dr. Asitha Cooray
Dr. Saranga Diyabalanage

Registration fee (per person): Rs. 6500
A certificate will be awarded to all participants

For more information contact :
Dr. Laksiri Weerasinghe: 0775401882
Dr. Upul Kumarasinghe: 0710187984



Section E3

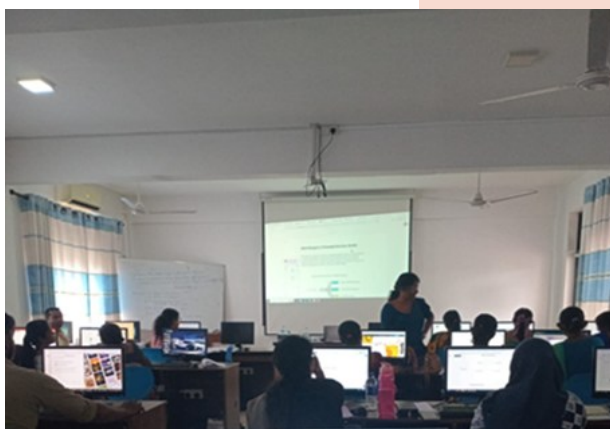
Workshop

A workshop was conducted at FELDEM, Meepe, under the National Institute of Education, organized by the Technology Branch of the Ministry of Education. The objective of the workshop was to develop a module for Home Science teachers, Engineering Technology teachers, and Ministry of Education officials on 19th to 21st of February 2025. The module comprises five key topics: AI in Education, Google Applications in Education, Distance Learning in Education, Blended Learning in Education, and New Trends in Education.

The workshop featured resource persons from the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS). Representing Section E3 of SLAAS, Dr. Pradeep Kalansooriya and Ms. Samadara Amarasinghe participated in the event.



The first pilot implementation of the developed module was conducted at Sri Rahula Vidyalaya, Madiwela, on March 6, 2025. Approximately 40 Home Economics Science teachers from the Western Province participated in the workshop. Representing Section E3 of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS), Ms. Samadara Amarasinghe facilitated the implementation of Topic 1 during the session.



Committee for the Popularization of Science (CPS)

School Science Day programmes



The first school science day programme organized by the CPS for the year 2025 was held on 14th February 2025 at the auditorium of the Faculty of Technology, University of Sabaragamuwa. Around 240 school students and 7 teachers representing 6 schools in the Balangoda Education Zone participated in this programme. This programme was organized as a collaboration between CPS and SLAAS Sabaragamuwa chapter. Students were able to listen to exciting presentations about various

aspects of science and career opportunities for science students. The resource persons included Prof. Jayantha Welihinda, Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa, Prof. Jayaruk Thambiliyagodage, and Dr. Gihani Jayaweera. Prof. Aashani Thilakarathne, Dr. Amila Jeewandara, Dr. Iresha Attanayaka, and Dr. Sameera Samarasekara. Karagastalawa Vidyalaya emerged as the winners of the science quiz competition, while the runners-up were students from Muththettuwegama Vidyalaya. They will be awarded certificates at the Annual Sessions of SLAAS in December 2025. Dr. Malsha Udayakantha and Elephant House (Pvt) Ltd made generous donations for refreshments for the students.

Workshop



Little mycologist program was successfully held at Wagolla and Dehiovita educational zones on 7th March 2025. The participants to the program included 70 students, 12 teachers and several parents representing several schools in the said educational zones. The participants were given a chance to get hands on experience on mushroom cultivation.

Environment Committee (EC)



A beach and underwater cleanup was successfully conducted at Beruwala Lighthouse Island, in collaboration with Earth Lanka. The initiative aimed to enhance environmental conservation efforts and raise awareness about marine pollution.



Webinar

A webinar on “Exploring the Seabed and Water Cultural Heritage” was conducted to provide valuable insights into underwater cultural heritage, its preservation, and its significance.

Call for Nature Photographic Contest is out for the year 2025. The contest targets students from higher education institutions and includes three categories: Landscape, Wildlife, and Environmental Impact.



Categories

- Landscape
- Wildlife
- Environmental Impact

Submit on or before:
April 30, 2025

Free Registration

Eligibility:
Students from Higher Education Institutions

INSTRUCTIONS

Nature E-Photo Contest

Main aim of the nature E-Photo contest is to educate people about the beauty of nature, often with the hope that more people will be inspired to help protect the environment

Coordinators:

Dr. D.S. Kalana Mendis
Senior Lecturer
Department of Information Technology
Advanced Technological Institute
Dehiwala

Dr. Menuka Udugama
Senior Lecturer
Dept. of Agribusiness Management
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Dr. Lakmini Gamage
Senior Lecturer
Department of History and Archaeology
University of Ruhuna

Submit

ORGANIZED BY
Environment C ommittee of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science

Eastern Chapter

Workshop



A workshop on Research Methodology was conducted by the Eastern Chapter for the teachers from the Paddiruppu Education Zone, Batticaloa on 16th January 2025 at the Technopark, EUSL. Mr. G. Vickneswaran, Senior Lecturer at the Dept. of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Culture



and Prof. P. Rodney Fernando, Dept. of Physics, Faculty of Science, EUSL served as the resource persons.

Discussion



The presentation and discussion for National Environmental Pioneer Programme (NEPP) President Medal Research project was held on 29th January 2025 at the Zonal Director Office, Kalmunai in collaboration with the SLAAS - Eastern Chapter. Mr. A.M. Riyas Ahamed, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka served as the Resource Person. Mr. Mohamed Mutharris, EPP District advisor, Mr. Mohamed Razick, EPP Zonal Commissioner, Mrs. Pusperajini, Environmental Officer and EPP In charge Teachers also

participated in this programme.

Seminars

School seminars are being conducted by Prof. P. Rodney Fernando, Dept. of Physics, Faculty of Science, EUSL, from January to April 2025 for the following schools.

Mo/ Wagama Kanitu Vidyalaya, Bibile	Grade : 10/11
Kg/Mahanaga M.V.	Grade: A/L and O/L
CP/HK/Denike Secondary School	Grade : A/L
Mo/Samagipura T.J.K.V, Kiri Ibbanwewa Sewanagala	Grade : Ordinary Level
R/Bala/Sri Walagamba Maha Vidyalaya – Weligepola	Grade : Ordinary Level
Mo/Samagipura T.J.K.V, Kiri ibban wewa Sewanagala	Grade : Ordinary Level
A/ Kandalama Pallegama Maha Vidyalaya	Grade : 10
BT/An-Noor National School, Valaichenai	Grade : A/L
BT/Arayampathy Maha Vidyalayam, Batticaloa.	Grade : 12
A/Kalawewa Muslim Central College	Grade : 10
A/Hemamami Maha Vidyalaya, Wahalkada	Grade : 11
BT/St. Theresa's Girls Vidyalayam	Grade : O/L
KM/AK/Karadikulam Rahmaniya Vidyalaya	Grade : 10 and 11
V/ Vavuniya Hindu College	Grade : O/L
Unagalawehera Maha Vidyalaya, Polonnaruwa	Grade 10 and 11
BT/BC/ Aayisha Mahalir Maha Vidyalaya	Grade : O/L

By the SLAAS Eastern Chapter, Under Section E1 - Physical Sciences, school seminars were conducted by Snr. Prof. A.G. Johnpillai, Dept. of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, EUSL, for the G. C. E. (O/L) - 2024 students of BT/Amirthakali Sri Sithy Vinayagar Vidyalayam & BT/Sri Mamangeswara Vidyalayam on 22nd February 2025 and for the students of BT/Pillayaradi Nallaiah Vidyalayam, BT/Puliyadimunai Vidyalayam, BT/Navaladi Namagal & BT/Urani Saraswathy Vidyalayam on 01st March 2025.



Awareness sessions on "Importance of Traditional Foods" were conducted for the Grade 5 students and their parents at the BT/ Kannaki Vidyalayam, Vantharumoolai on 28th February 2025 and those of BT/Alaimagal Vidyalayam, Siththandi on 14th March 2025. Dr. K. Premakumar, Retired Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL served as the resource person.

