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# ONE WORLD ONE USJ

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION



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University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Newsletter of the International Affairs Division

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## Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Dear International Community and Our Partners,

As the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, I am delighted to extend a warm greeting to our international students, faculty members, alumni, and worldwide stakeholders through the second edition of the Newsletter of our International Affairs Division. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura continues to flourish as a center of academic excellence, cultural exchange, international cooperation, and global networking. I am especially proud of the significant international achievements that we have achieved during the period from June 2024 and June 2025.

Over the past year, we have seen a steady increase in the enrollment of foreign students, which speaks to our university's growing reputation and the dynamic, inclusive environment we offer. These students bring diverse perspectives that enrich our campus and enhance the learning experience for all. International collaboration remains central to our mission. We have signed numerous Memoranda of Understanding with prestigious foreign universities and institutions, enabling joint programmes, research initiatives, and academic exchanges. These partnerships not only broaden our academic horizons but also contribute to addressing global challenges through shared knowledge and innovation. Furthermore, our active engagement with foreign embassies has significantly expanded our international network. These collaborations facilitate student and faculty exchanges, scholarships, and various cultural programmes, further enriching the educational experience at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Looking to the future, we are excited about the many opportunities that lie ahead. We remain dedicated to cultivating an environment where international students feel at home and where academic excellence and cultural diversity are celebrated. Thank you for being a part of our vibrant international community. Together, we will continue to build bridges across cultures and create a brighter, more interconnected world.

Warm regards

Senior Professor M. M. Pathmalal

Vice-Chancellor

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

# Message from the Director of International Affairs Division



Dear International Community and Our Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the past year, it fills me with immense pride and delight to share the significant progress and outstanding achievements of the International Affairs Division in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in terms of our international collaborations. It's been a truly transformative period, marked by a dedicated effort to expand our global footprint and foster deeper connections across borders.

Over the past year, our team has worked tirelessly, driven by a shared vision to foster meaningful collaborations and strengthen relationships with institutions and partners worldwide. We've successfully expanded partnerships into new regions, opening doors to fresh opportunities for academic exchange, research cooperation, and cultural understanding. These new alliances are already paving the way for exciting joint ventures and enriching experiences for our university and students.

A highlight of the year was hosting several successful international events. These events united leading minds from various fields and nations, encouraging lively discussions, sharing innovative research, and inspiring new ideas. They provided valuable platforms for intellectual exchange and networking, significantly boosting the University of Sri Jayewardenepura's reputation globally. Alongside academic activities, we also promoted numerous cultural exchanges, enabling our community to connect with different perspectives and traditions. These experiences not only expanded horizons but also helped foster a more inclusive and globally conscious campus environment.

These concerted efforts have not only strengthened our global presence but have also significantly deepened our understanding of diverse perspectives and cultures. They've enabled us to adopt the best practices worldwide and incorporate global insights into our academic programs and research initiatives, ensuring our university stays at the forefront of international education.

Looking ahead, we are brimming with excitement about the opportunities that lie before us. We are actively planning and preparing to launch several new international projects, which will further our commitment to addressing global challenges through collaborative research and innovative solutions. A key focus will also be on enhancing cross-cultural communication within our university community and with our international partners. We believe that clear and empathetic communication is the cornerstone of successful global collaboration, and we are investing in initiatives to strengthen this vital aspect. Furthermore, we are dedicated to expanding our global network, seeking out new strategic partnerships that align with our academic strengths and research priorities. With your continued support, invaluable collaboration, and shared enthusiasm, we are more confident than ever in our ability to make a meaningful and lasting impact on a global scale.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team within the International Affairs Division for their unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and infectious enthusiasm. Their passion has been the driving force behind our successes. My sincere thanks also go to our valued partners around the world for their trust, collaboration, and shared vision. Together, we will continue to champion international cooperation, foster mutual learning, and create boundless opportunities for growth and innovation.

Warm regards

Dr. Ruwini Prasadini Dharmawardene  
Director, International Affairs Division  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura



# **The International Affairs Division (IAD)**

## **University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

We are excited to share the latest developments from our International Affairs Division. Our team has been diligently working to foster global partnerships and enhance our international presence. ***“One World, One USJ”***, the newsletter of the International Affairs Division presents you with the highlights of our recent activities and accomplishments from June 2024 to June 2025.

We have successfully established new collaborations with key institutions in Europe and Asia, aimed at promoting cross-cultural exchange and joint research initiatives. These partnerships are set to open numerous opportunities for our university, including exchange programs, collaborative projects, and international conferences.

Our goal is to provide comprehensive and accessible learning opportunities for all. The outreach programmes of the university have expanded to include community engagement projects that promote cultural understanding and global citizenship. These initiatives are instrumental in building bridges between diverse communities and fostering a spirit of global cooperation.

We are proud of the progress our International Affairs Division has made and look forward to continuing our work in advancing global collaboration and understanding. We encourage all members to stay engaged with our activities and take advantage of the opportunities we offer.

### ***For any queries and information:***

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# **INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND COLLABORATIONS**



## Expanding Horizons: Delegation from Zhejiang Shuren University, China to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura is a well-known higher educational institute worldwide with over 100s of international collaborations. Zhejiang Shuren University, China is one of the pioneers that our university has partnerships over the years. As a result of this prolonged mutual understanding and friendship between the two institutions, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had the privilege of welcoming the delegation from Zhejiang Shuren University, China on 22nd October 2024. The Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor M.M. Pathmalal, and Deans of the Faculties, Research Council, Innovation, Invention and Venture Creations Council, senior academic staff members and the administrative officers graciously welcomed them to the university.

During this visit, 06 delegates from the Zhejiang Shuren University visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura including Vice-President Professor Chen Jun, Professor Liu Weiping (Dean, Interdisciplinary Research Academy), Mrs. Zhao Rui (Deputy Dean, School of Humanities and Foreign Languages), Associate Professor Huang Qiubo (School of Economics and Social Welfare), Associate Professor Yin Shanshan (Interdisciplinary Research Academy) and Ms. Olivia Liu Jiani (Officer of International Affairs).

The visit had three key objectives, reflecting the deepening ties between our institutions:

- **Awarding an Honorary Professorship to the Vice-Chancellor:**

- In recognition of the leadership and contributions to academia, expertise in research projects, national and international collaborations and research publications, Zhejiang Shuren University has recognized our Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor M.M. Pathmalal to be awarded the Honorary Professorship in Interdisciplinary Research Academy of their university. This prestigious recognition highlights the ongoing academic and research collaboration between our universities.

- **Opening of the Chinese Language and Cultural Centre:**

- As part of a framework agreement on the joint establishment of the Silk Road Academy, the delegation formally inaugurated the Chinese Language and Cultural Centre at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This center aims to foster cultural exchange and language learning, strengthening the bond between Sri Lanka and China. In response to the Belt and Road initiative, adhering to the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, both universities will deeply promote and fully integrate the resources of the two universities, with full attention to mutual advantages in scientific research, talent sharing, cultural exchanges and other possible avenues.







PHOTOGRAPHED BY

DELEGATION FROM ZHEJIANG SHUREN UNIVERSITY, CHINA

Jpurafumes.com



- **Exploring New Initiatives and Facilities in E-Commerce:**

- The delegation toured the newly built Faculty Complex of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. In addition, discussions were held regarding the initiation of e-commerce-based internship programs, providing valuable opportunities for students.

- **Establishment of an International Joint Laboratory on Environmental Exposure and Health Research:**

- A significant outcome of the visit was the agreement to establish an international joint laboratory focused on environmental exposure and health research, further cementing our commitment to collaborative research. Both universities will jointly develop or initiate appropriate collaborative projects to facilitate the start-up and long-term development of the joint laboratory and both sides will work together to secure funding for future collaborative research and international collaborative joint funding programmes.



The visit was enlightened by the cultural show organized by the students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Chinese delegates will visit some places in Sri Lanka during their stay here to witness the beauty of Sri Lanka. The International Affairs Division of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized this event with the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) and Prof. Dushan Jayawickrama (Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce). Prof. Rukmal Weerasinghe and Prof. Janak Kumarasinghe, two of the Senior Academic Staff members of our university affiliated with the Zhejiang Shuren University, assisted in collaborating on this visit.

This visit marks a significant step forward in our shared journey toward academic excellence, intercultural exchange, and joint research endeavors.

## Dr. Bandula Wijerathna's Inspiring Visit to Our University

On December 13th, 2024, we had the honor of welcoming Dr. Bandula Wijey, a distinguished Sri Lankan doctor and entrepreneur closely associated with our university, for the second time this year. Dr. Wijey has been an invaluable supporter and a key figure in strengthening the relationship between our university and the broader medical and entrepreneurial community. His visit was a meaningful opportunity to strengthen the ties between our institution and the valuable work he does in the medical and entrepreneurial fields. Dr. Wijey's continued support and involvement are greatly appreciated, and his presence inspires us to further excel in our academic and professional endeavors.

Throughout his visit, Dr. Wijey shared his wealth of knowledge and experience, providing valuable insights that inspire both students and faculty alike. His dedication to advancing healthcare and entrepreneurship, along with his unwavering support for the university, continues to motivate us to strive for excellence in our academic and professional pursuits. We are truly grateful for his continued involvement with our institution, and his visits serve as a reminder of the power of collaboration and the importance of community engagement.

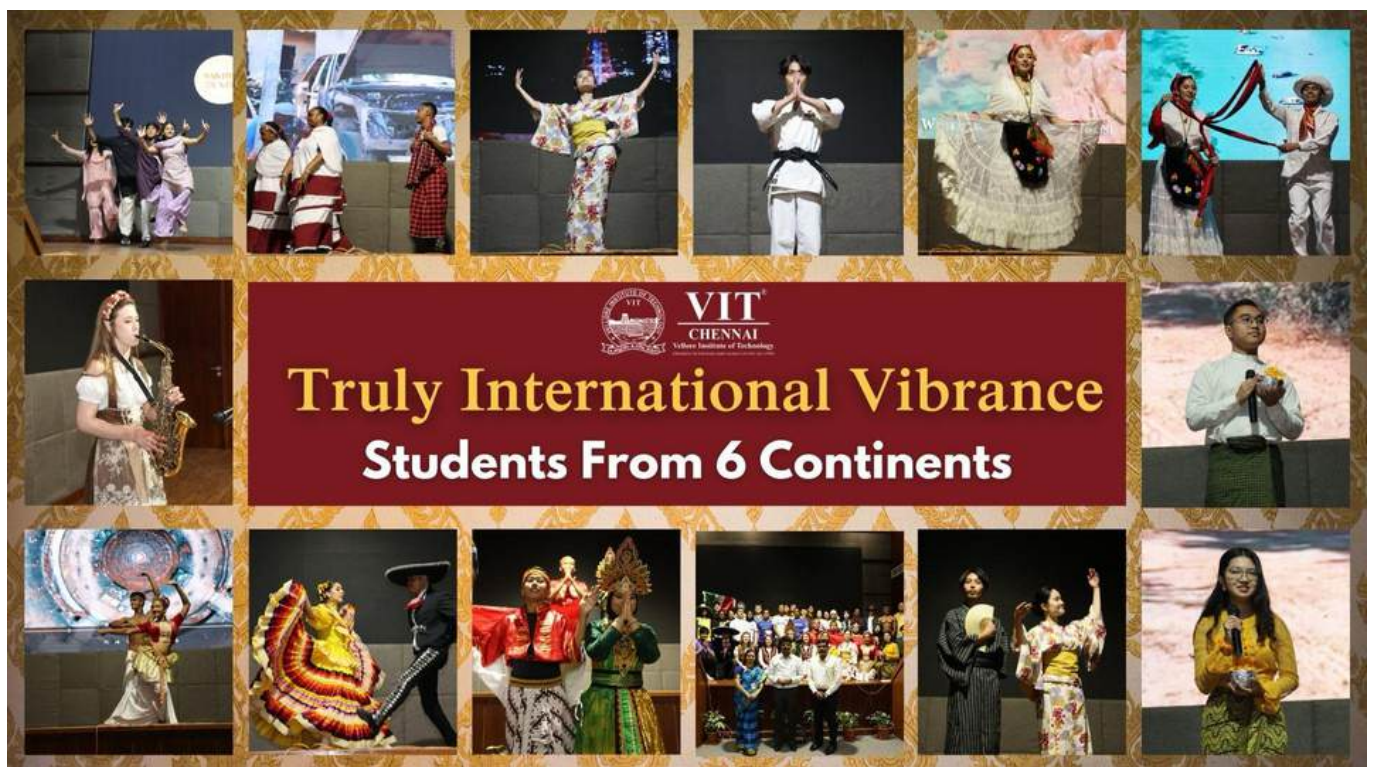




## J' Pura Students Shine at Vibrance'25, VIT Chennai, India

Two outstanding undergraduates from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Mr. Anupa Indira Liyanagunawardana (Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce – Fourth Year) and Ms. Praveena Saparamadu (Faculty of Applied Sciences – Third Year), proudly represented the university at Vibrance'25 – the annual cultural and sports festival organized by Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Chennai, India.

**A Remarkable Student Experience:-** Vibrance'25, held from February 26th to March 1st, 2025, was a dynamic celebration of diverse cultures and sporting talents. The festival gathered over 40 participants from 16 different countries, providing a unique platform for students to interact, compete, and immerse themselves in a vibrant international atmosphere. Participants engaged in cultural performances, sports events, gaming competitions, and recreational activities. The festival was further enriched with daily concerts featuring popular artists such as Armaan Malik, Shakthisree Gopalan, Devi Sri Prasad, and Julia Bliss. A major highlight was Videsh – Cultural Clash Showdown on February 28, where international students showcased their traditional performances at the Nethaji Auditorium. In addition to the festival, VIT Chennai offered short-term academic courses. All Sri Lankan participants took part in AI and Machine Learning and Indian Culture courses under Slot II, benefiting from engaging lectures and hands-on experiences in robotics, drone, and audio laboratories. Furthermore, students participated in yoga and mindfulness sessions, fostering personal growth and well-being.





**Exploring India:-** Beyond academics and cultural events, the students explored historical and modern attractions, visiting Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage site that emerged after a tsunami, and engaging in leisure activities at Marina Mall and Phoenix Mall.

**Outstanding Achievements:-** Praveena Saparamadu participated in the basketball tournament, where her team emerged as champions, and she was honored as the Best Shooter of the tournament. Anupa Liyanagunawardana took part in the mini marathon, securing a position among the top 20 finishers. Both students represented Sri Lanka at Videsh – Cultural Clash Showdown, performing a traditional dance that captivated the audience. All Sri Lankan students received certificates for completing yoga and mindfulness sessions.

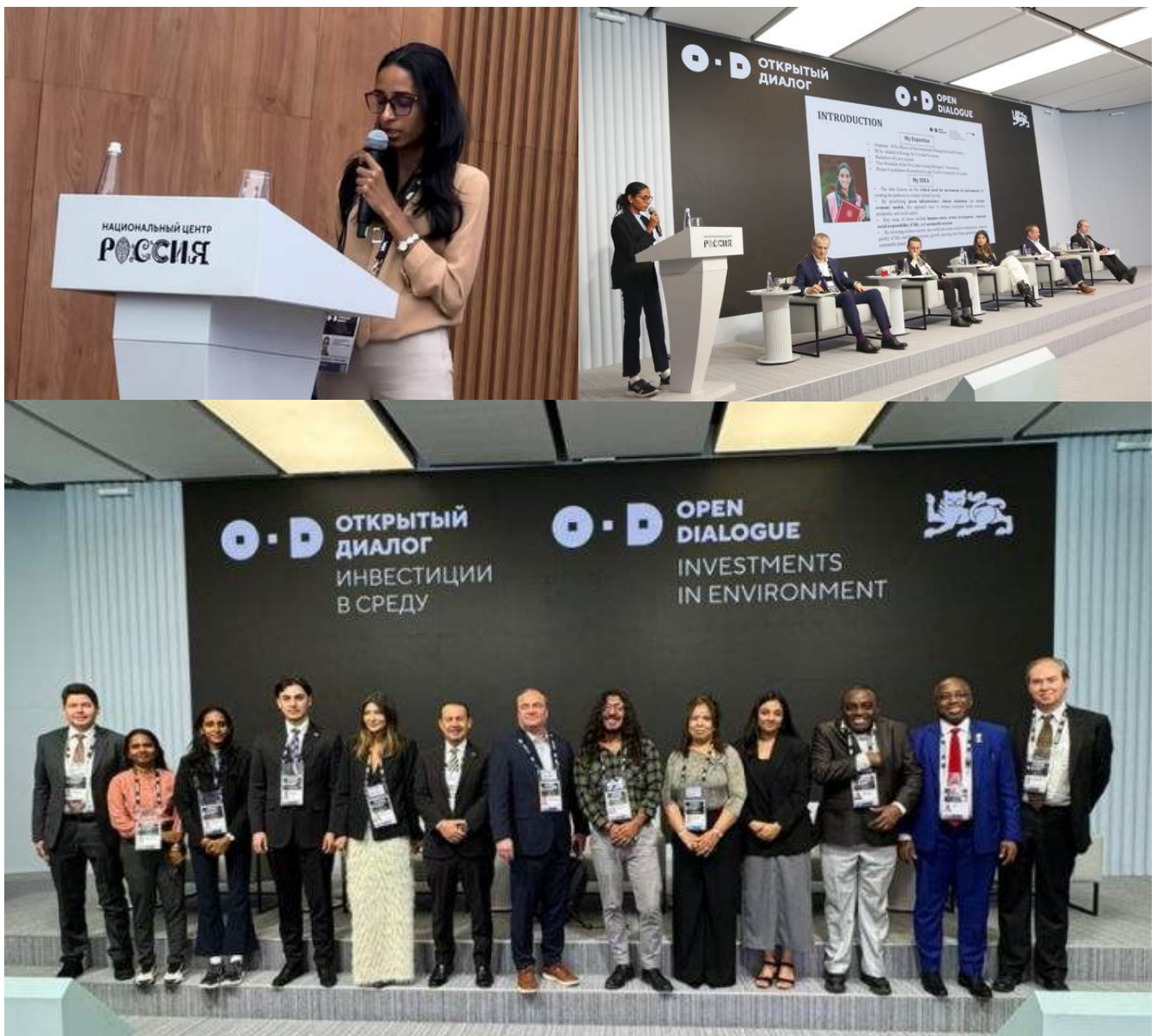
**Networking and Global Engagement:-** Vibrance'25 provided a valuable opportunity for students to connect with peers from diverse backgrounds, including participants from Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, Japan, Indonesia, and across India. These interactions allowed them to exchange cultural insights, foster friendships, and build lasting international networks. The students successfully grasped the concepts with the guidance of expert professors. This experience broadened their understanding of data analysis and predictive modeling.



## "Open Dialogue - The Future of the World. New Platform for Global Growth" forum in Moscow, Russia

The Research Assistant of the International Affairs Division, Ms. Apeksha Sandeepanie had the privilege of representing Sri Lanka and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura at the prestigious "Open Dialogue - The Future of the World. New Platform for Global Growth" forum in Moscow, Russia (April 27 - May 2, 2025). Her essay on **"Investments in Environment - Creating the Pathway to a Better Global Growth"** made her chosen as a finalist from among 696 submissions spanning 102 countries. This recognition provided the opportunity to present her ideas at the in-person stage of the competition hosted by the National Centre Russia in Moscow. Ms. Apeksha could share her presentation advanced through several rounds of evaluation, placing her among the top 06 finalists in her category and ultimately securing 03rd place in the final round. This achievement not only validates perseverance but also brings international recognition to Sri Lanka's contributions to environmental sustainability discourse.

Beyond the academic competition, this visit offered extraordinary cultural and networking opportunities: the "Journey across Russia" and "Birth of Scale" tours at the Russia National Centre, the multi-genre programme "Diaghilev Forever", visit to Moscow's architectural wonders during a city tour and Moscow River boat ride, and engaging with world-renowned experts including the distinguished economist Dr. Jeffrey Sachs



## Strengthening Global Research Ties: Teesside University Vice-Chancellor Visits University of Sri Jayewardenepura

On 03rd March, 2025, Professor Paul Croney, Vice-Chancellor of Teesside University, United Kingdom, visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura to foster academic and research collaborations. The discussions between the two Vice-Chancellors held at the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, focused on advancing joint research initiatives, faculty and student exchange, and transnational education support. Senior Professor M.M. Pathmalal, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Sri Jayewardenepura welcomed the delegates gracefully to the university. Dr. Mathi Kadijah, Dean, School of Science at the BMS Campus initiated this collaboration with our university.

Key objectives of the visit included:

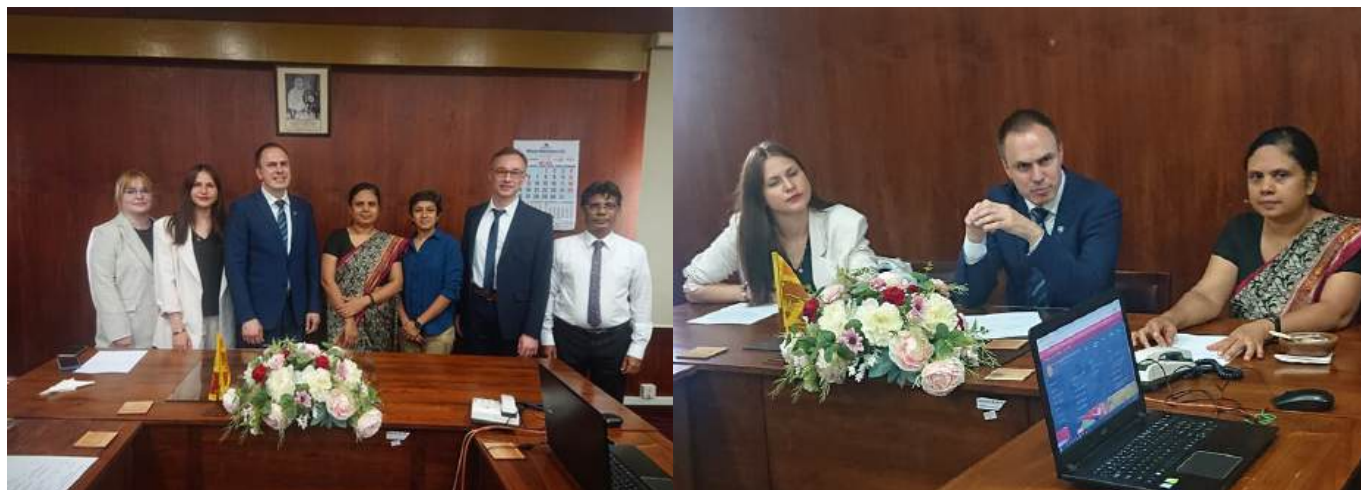
- **Enhancing Research Collaborations** – Encouraging joint research activities, publications, and the exchange of scholarly ideas between both universities.
- **Facilitating Research Scholar Visits** – Exploring research exchange programs, particularly in the field of Molecular and Biological Sciences.
- **Supporting Transnational Education** – Providing academic research support for students enrolled in Teesside University's Master's Degree program at BMS Campus, Sri Lanka, with a future Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between BMS Campus and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.
- **Establishing a Three-Year Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding** – To formalize collaboration for an initial period of three years, both universities will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with periodic reviews and an option for renewal or discontinuation by either party with a 12-month notice.



In the evening of the same day, the signing ceremony of the Expression of Interest (EOI) was held at the British High Commission Office, Colombo, marking a significant step towards a long-term academic partnership. Senior Prof. M.M. Pathmalal, Vice-Chancellor of our university and Dr. Ruwini Dharmawardene, the Director of International Affairs Division joined this signing ceremony representing the university.



## **Fostering International Educational Collaboration: Hosting a Delegation from Irkutsk National Research Technical University**



On 14th May 2025, the International Affairs Division had the privilege of organizing a significant educational delegation visit from Irkutsk National Research Technical University (INRTU), Russia, in collaboration with the Russian House in Colombo. This engagement represents an important step in fostering international academic relationships and exploring potential collaborative opportunities between our institutions. Established in 1930, INRTU stands as a beacon of academic excellence and innovation in Russia's educational landscape. As one of the designated national research universities in Russia, it serves as a center for science, culture, and education in the Irkutsk region. The university has gained international recognition through its presence in prestigious global rankings, which reflect INRTU's commitment to academic quality, research output, and global engagement in higher education.

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings: 1501+, THE Engineering Rankings: 1251+, THE Impact Rankings: 401-600, QS World University Rankings: 301-350

The visiting delegation comprised key leadership figures from INRTU's international affairs division: Stepan Bykov – Vice-Rector for International Affairs, who oversees the university's global partnerships and international strategy, Anna Melenteva – Head of the International Affairs Department, responsible for implementing the university's international programs, Klimently Batoroev – Advisor to Vice-Rector, providing strategic guidance on international collaborations, Elizaveta Ivanova – Specialist of the International Affairs Department, managing operational aspects of international programs. This visit marks the beginning of what promises to be a fruitful relationship between our institutions. The delegation expressed keen interest in formalizing collaborative frameworks through potential memoranda of understanding and specific project agreements. The engagement with INRTU opens doors to Russia's extensive higher education network and creates pathways for academic and research partnerships in the Eurasian region. Similarly, it provides INRTU with connections to our regional educational ecosystem. Hosting the delegation from Irkutsk National Research Technical University has been a significant step toward internationalizing our educational perspective and expanding our global academic network. The discussions held during this visit have laid a strong foundation for future collaborative initiatives that will benefit both institutions and contribute to the broader goals of international educational cooperation. As global education continues to evolve, such cross-border academic relationships become increasingly valuable in preparing students and researchers for participation in our interconnected world.



## Initiating partnerships with the University of Lucknow, India

On 30th June 2025, the International Affairs Division had the privilege of welcoming the delegation from the University of Lucknow, India. A team of 05 academic members led by their Vice-Chancellor was welcomed by the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura - Prof. Dushan Jayawickrama.

Prof. Alok Kumar Rai – Vice-Chancellor, University of Lucknow, Prof. Ravindra Pratap Singh – Director, International Cell, Prof. Geetanjali Mishra – Professor of Zoology and Dean of Academics, Prof. Keya Pandey – Professor of Anthropology/ Honorary Librarian, and Prof. Audhesh Kumar – Professor of Commerce/ Programme Director (MBA) represented the University of Lucknow. Alongside Prof. Dushan Jayawickrama – Acting Vice-Chancellor, and the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Senior Prof. Charmalie Nahallage – Senior Professor in the Department of Anthropology, Prof. Kamal Ranatunga – Head of the Department of Zoology, Dr. Tharaka Ananda – Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and Dr. Ruwini Dharmawardene – Director, International Affairs Division represented the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Greater interests were shown in furthering academic ties in Management, Commerce, Zoology, Anthropology, and Central Libraries, together with partnerships in collaborative international research conferences and workshops.



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**



## **Strengthening Bonds across Borders: University of Sri Jayewardenepura Welcomes Delegation from Shan State Buddhist University, Myanmar**

On the 22nd of August 2024, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had the honor of welcoming a distinguished delegation from Shan State Buddhist University, Myanmar. The visit was marked by enriching discussions and exchanges aimed at strengthening academic and cultural ties between the two institutions. The Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor M.M. Pathmalal, Venerable Professor Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma Thero, and the International Affairs Division of the university warmly received the delegation. Representing the Shan State Buddhist University, a group of ten venerable monks participated in the event. Venerable Professor Dr. Khammai Dhammasami - the Rector of the Shan State Buddhist University, Venerable Dr. S.H.Pannyabhoga - Acting Dean, Venerable Sukhaminda MA - Meditation Master, Venerable Nandamala MA - Meditation Master and Venerable Candrasiri - Administration Committee Member of the Makutarama Temple in Colombo were among the distinguished guests.

During the visit, both universities engaged in a productive dialogue on various topics, including collaborative research opportunities, student and faculty exchange programs, and the promotion of Buddhist studies and cultural heritage. A significant outcome of this visit was the signing of a Letter of Intent, signaling both institutions' commitment to future collaboration. This initiation paves the way for joint initiatives in academic research, cultural exchange, and other areas of mutual interest, fostering a stronger partnership in the years to come. A key highlight of the visit was the joint discussion held at the office of the Vice-Chancellor, where scholars from both universities shared insights on the role of Buddhist education in promoting peace and sustainable development in the region. This provided a platform for deepening mutual understanding and exploring avenues for future cooperation.

The visit concluded by showcasing the rich traditions and customs of both Sri Lanka and Myanmar, fostering a spirit of goodwill and friendship. The event has laid the foundation for a lasting partnership that will benefit both institutions and contribute to the broader goal of regional collaboration in higher education.





## Strengthening ties with the Russian Federation

On the 18th of September 2024, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had the privilege of welcoming a delegation from the Ural State University of Economics (USUE), Russian Federation. This remarkable event embraced the significant partnership between the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) and Ural State University of Economics, Russia. This collaboration marked the establishment of a Russian Language Center at USJ, with the support of His Excellency Levan S. Dzagharyan, Ambassador of Russia to Sri Lanka.

The delegates were graced by Senior Professor M. M. Pathmalal, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, deans from other faculties, heads of the departments, students, along with distinguished guests from both universities. Special recognition was given to Professor Roman Krasnov, the Vice Rector of Ural State University of Economics and the key pillar of this collaboration and Maria L. Popova, the Head of the Russian Cultural Centre for their pivotal roles in making this partnership a reality. Virtually joining, the event was graced by Prof. Yakov Silin, the Rector of Ural State University of Economics. His involvement and collaboration with our university mark a significant chapter in the academic journey. Mr. Ramanayake, Chief Executive Officer of the Russian Cultural Centre, representatives from the Russian Cultural Centre and industry representatives were also joined this momentous occasion.



This day marks a significant milestone in both the academic advancement of our university and in the strengthening of ties between our two nations. The establishment of the Russian Language Centre at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is a testament to our commitment to expanding global engagement, deepening cultural understanding, and providing our students with the tools they need to thrive in an interconnected world. We hope that this initiation of the Professional Diploma in Russian Language and the Opening of the Russian Language Centre at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, in collaboration with the Ural State University of Economics, will open new doors for our students, fostering a deeper engagement with Russian language and culture. This event was facilitated by the International Affairs Division of the university.

## **Collaborative discussions between the Chuvash State Pedagogical University, the Russian Federation, and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ)**

On last 26th November 2024, a delegation from Chuvash State Pedagogical University led by Ms. Svetlana Viktorovna Ilyina, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Ms. Elena Gennadievna Khristanova, Head of the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology of the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogy visited the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The visitors were welcomed by Venerable Prof. Elamaldeniye Sarananda Thero, Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies and Dr. Ruwini Dharmawardene, Director of the International Affairs Division. The discussion was based on possible avenues for Russian Language development and opportunities for the improvement of the tourism subject discipline. Mrs. Wathsala Madhuwanthi, Lecturer in Russian Language coordinated the visit along with the International Affairs Division.





## Delegation from Zhejiang Shuren University, China to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Zhejiang Shuren University, China, is one of the pioneers with which our university has partnerships since 2015. As a result of this prolonged mutual understanding and friendship between the two institutions, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had the privilege of welcoming the delegation from Zhejiang Shuren University, China, on 22nd October 2024. The Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor M.M. Pathmalal, and Deans of the Faculties, Research Council, Innovation, Invention and Venture Creations Council, senior academic staff members, and the administrative officers graciously welcomed them to the university.

During this visit, 06 delegates from the Zhejiang Shuren University visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura including Vice-President Professor Chen Jun, Professor Liu Weiping (Dean, Interdisciplinary Research Academy), Mrs. Zhao Rui (Deputy Dean, School of Humanities and Foreign Languages), Associate Professor Huang Qiubo (School of Economics and Social Welfare), Associate Professor Yin Shanshan (Interdisciplinary Research Academy) and Ms. Olivia Liu Jiani (Officer of International Affairs).

The visit had three key objectives, reflecting the deepening ties between our institutions:

- ***Opening of the Chinese Language and Cultural Centre:***

- As part of a framework agreement on the joint establishment of the Silk Road Academy, the delegation formally inaugurated the Chinese Language and Cultural Centre at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This center aims to foster cultural exchange and language learning, strengthening the bond between Sri Lanka and China. In response to the Belt and Road initiative, adhering to the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, both universities will deeply promote and fully integrate the resources of the two universities, with full attention to mutual advantages in scientific research, talent sharing, cultural exchanges and other possible avenues.

This visit marks a significant step forward in our shared journey toward academic excellence, intercultural exchange, and joint research endeavors.



## **Building Bridges with Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), Wuhan, China**

On the 06th of November 2024, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was fortunate to welcome the Chinese delegation from the Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), Wuhan, China. Representing the HUST, Prof. ZHOU Liping – Dean, School of International Education and Professor in Instrument Science and Technology, Prof. LIU Fang – Chair, School of International Education and Professor in School of Computer Science, Prof. TAN Gangyi – Dean, School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Prof. QIAN Xuesong – Vice-Dean, School of Economics, Prof. DING Hui – Deputy Director, Student Office of First Clinical School and Prof. AI Xiao – Vice-Director, Admission and Cooperation Office of the School of International Education visited the university. Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), a top-ranking national university in China is regarded as the Epitome of the Development of China's Higher Education and has been committed to developing a dynamic and innovative university. As a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary research university, HUST boasts a full range of academic disciplines, comprising 10 major disciplines including Engineering, Medicine, Economics, Law, Philosophy, Education, Literature, Science, Management, and Liberal Arts within 49 schools. According to the latest report on Essential Science Indicators, published by Thomson Reuters in 2020, 16 of HUST's research areas are now ranked among the top 1% among peers in the world, with Engineering, Computer Science, Materials Science, Clinical Medicine and Chemistry among the top 1% globally.



As a research-intensive university, HUST is renowned for both its advanced research facilities and its academic achievements. It manages four National Laboratory/National Science Centers, including the Wuhan National Laboratory for Optoelectronics (one of the six national labs in China), the Wuhan National High Magnetic Field Center (National Science Center), the Center for Gravitational Experiments (National Science Center) and the National Innovation Institute of Digital Design and Manufacturing. In addition, its research capacity extends to many other high-level research facilities.





Prof. AI Xiao – Vice-Director, Admission and Cooperation Office of the School of International Education elaborated on the background of the HUST and potential opportunities at their university. Final-year undergraduate students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences joined this event. They gained knowledge and a clear vision of how to apply for scholarships in China and how to choose the relevant degree programmes for their postgraduate studies. The fruitful interactive session between the guests and the students helped them to understand the scenario of the application procedure.



Ven. Prof. Dambara Amila Thero – Head, Department of History and Archeology, Senior Prof. Pradeep Jayaweera – Dean, Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, Prof. Gamini Ranasinghe – Professor in the Department of History and Archeology, Prof. B.W.R. Damayanthi – Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Lalith Ananda – Professor in the Department of English and Linguistics, Prof. Gamini Rathnashri – Professor in Buddhist Philosophy, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Dr. K.B.G.S.K. Gamlath – Department of Political Science, Mr. A.R.C.P. Udayakumara – Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Dr. Ruwini Dharmawardene – Director, International Affairs Division and Mrs. Nishanthi Vidanage – Director, Physical Education joined this event representing the academic staff members of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

This delegation was organized by Prof. Gamini Ranasinghe of the Department of History and Archeology and the International Affairs Division facilitated the visit.

## University of Sri Jayewardenepura Strengthens Partnerships with Ural State University of Economics, Russia

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura proudly announces the successful return of Senior Professor Pathmalal Manage, Vice Chancellor of the University, and Professor Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, following their participation in the prestigious XV Eurasian Economic Youth Forum. The forum was held at the Ural State University of Economics (USUE) in Yekaterinburg, Russia, from 21st to 25th April 2025. The forum served as a dynamic platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the exploration of international partnerships. A series of high-level discussions were conducted with Professor Yakov Silin, Rector of USUE, and Professor Roman Krasnov, Vice-Rector of USUE, focusing on a wide range of potential cooperative initiatives. Topics included the development of joint research projects, academic staff and student exchange programs, and broader institutional collaborations aimed at enhancing academic excellence and global engagement. Notably, discussions also centered on the introduction of scholarship opportunities for USJ students enrolled in the Professional Diploma in Russian Language.





These students will now have pathways to pursue postgraduate studies including Master's and Ph.D. programs at USUE under newly established scholarship schemes. In addition to these productive academic exchanges, USJP delegates actively engaged in the "Dialogue on Equal Terms," a landmark gathering that brought together ambassadors, consuls, and students at the USUE House of Culture. This event offered a unique opportunity for cultural diplomacy and international networking, emphasizing shared values and mutual understanding across nations. Further elevating USJ's presence, the representatives participated in the International Diplomatic Forum, an influential meeting attended by leaders of major public associations, business communities, and governmental authorities. Through these interactions, USJ aimed to foster stronger ties not only with educational institutions but also with broader economic and diplomatic sectors, reinforcing the university's commitment to holistic international cooperation. Another key highlight was USJ's participation in the prestigious Forum of Rectors of Universities of Russia and Foreign Countries, held at the Governor's Residence, the historic N.I. Sevastyanov House.

This high-level meeting gathered senior academic leaders from across the globe to discuss strategies for advancing international higher education and fostering global academic solidarity. Beyond formal engagements, the USJ delegation also had the enriching experience of exploring Russian culture firsthand. They attended vibrant cultural events, immersed themselves in traditional Russian customs, and visited major tourist attractions in Yekaterinburg. These cultural experiences deepened their appreciation of Russia's rich heritage and strengthened the bonds of friendship between the two nations. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura's active involvement in the XV Eurasian Economic Youth Forum represents a significant milestone in its ongoing journey toward becoming a globally connected institution. Through such international collaborations, USJ remains committed to empowering its academic community and expanding its global reach.





# **Initiation of the Round Table Discussions with the Foundation for the Promotion of Buddhist Education and Research, Russian Federation**

## *ROUND TABLE - 01*

### *“ISSUES IN TRANSLATION OF BUDDHIST TEXTS: FROM TRANSLATION TO INTERPRETATION”*

A proposal was put forth for a collaborative effort with Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies), University of Sri Jayewardenepura to convene a roundtable discussion, on Languages of the Buddhist World, during the second part of 2025 with the Foundation for Promotion of Buddhist Education and Research, Russian Federation. Accordingly, the first round table discussion session was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June via virtual platform, which was moderated by Dr. Ruwini Dharmawardene, Director of the International Affairs Division.

The discussion concentrated on the challenges inherent in the translation of Buddhist terminology across the languages of the Buddhist world (Sanskrit and Pali, Chinese, Tibetan, Japanese, Sinhalese, Tamil, etc.) into European languages, Russian and languages of the Buddhist peoples of Russia (Kalmyk, Buryat, Tuvan, Altai (Oirat)). The project title of the plenary report by Alexey Maslov, President of the Foundation: “Buddhist terminology: from translation to interpretation on the example of the ‘New Buddhist Encyclopedia’ project”. This report presented the Foundation’s comprehensive Russian-language dictionary of Buddhist terminology, including terms from Sanskrit, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, and Mongolian. The project’s objective is to develop a complete understanding of Buddhist philosophy, key Buddhist figures worldwide, and the regional diversity of Buddhism. The Foundation intends to collaborate with international specialists from Sri Lanka, India, China, and Myanmar in the project’s implementation.

#### The participants for the round table - 01 from Foundation for Promotion of Buddhist Education and Research:

1. Professor Alexey Maslov, Director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies at Lomonosov Moscow State University, President of the Foundation for the Promotion of Buddhist Education and Research (Moscow, Russia)  
***Topic: “Transformation of basic Sanskrit terms in Chinese and Russian in the consecutive translation of Buddhist texts”***
2. Professor Boris Zakharyin, Senior researcher, Research Laboratory  
***Topic: “Concepts ‘jaati’ and ‘gotta’ in Theravada Buddhism”***
3. Andrei Fesiun, Deputy Director for Science, Head of the Department of History and Culture of Japan, IAAS MSU  
***Topic: “Buddhist texts in Russian-language translations: completed and planned”***
4. Boris Volkhonsky, Associate professor, Department of Indian Philology, IAAS MSU  
***Topic: “Translation of Buddhist terms in classical Sinhala poetry into Russian (translator’s experience)”***
5. Luidmila Khokhlova, Associate professor, Department of Indian Philology, IAAS MSU  
***Topic: “Traditional structure of the Pali Jataka”***
6. Sofia Kamadanova, PhD student, Department of Indian Philology, 2nd year of study, IAAS MSU  
***Topic: “The Buddhist Concept of Renunciation; in Sanskrit and Pali: On the Problem of Interpretation and Translation”***

The participants for the round table - 01 from University of Sri Jayewardenepura:

1. Venerable Professor Elamaldeniye Sarananda Thero, Professor in Buddhist Civilization, Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

**Topic: Introduction to Panel Discussion/Moderator of the Round Table Discussion**

2. Venerable Senior Professor Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma Thero, Senior Professor in Pali, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

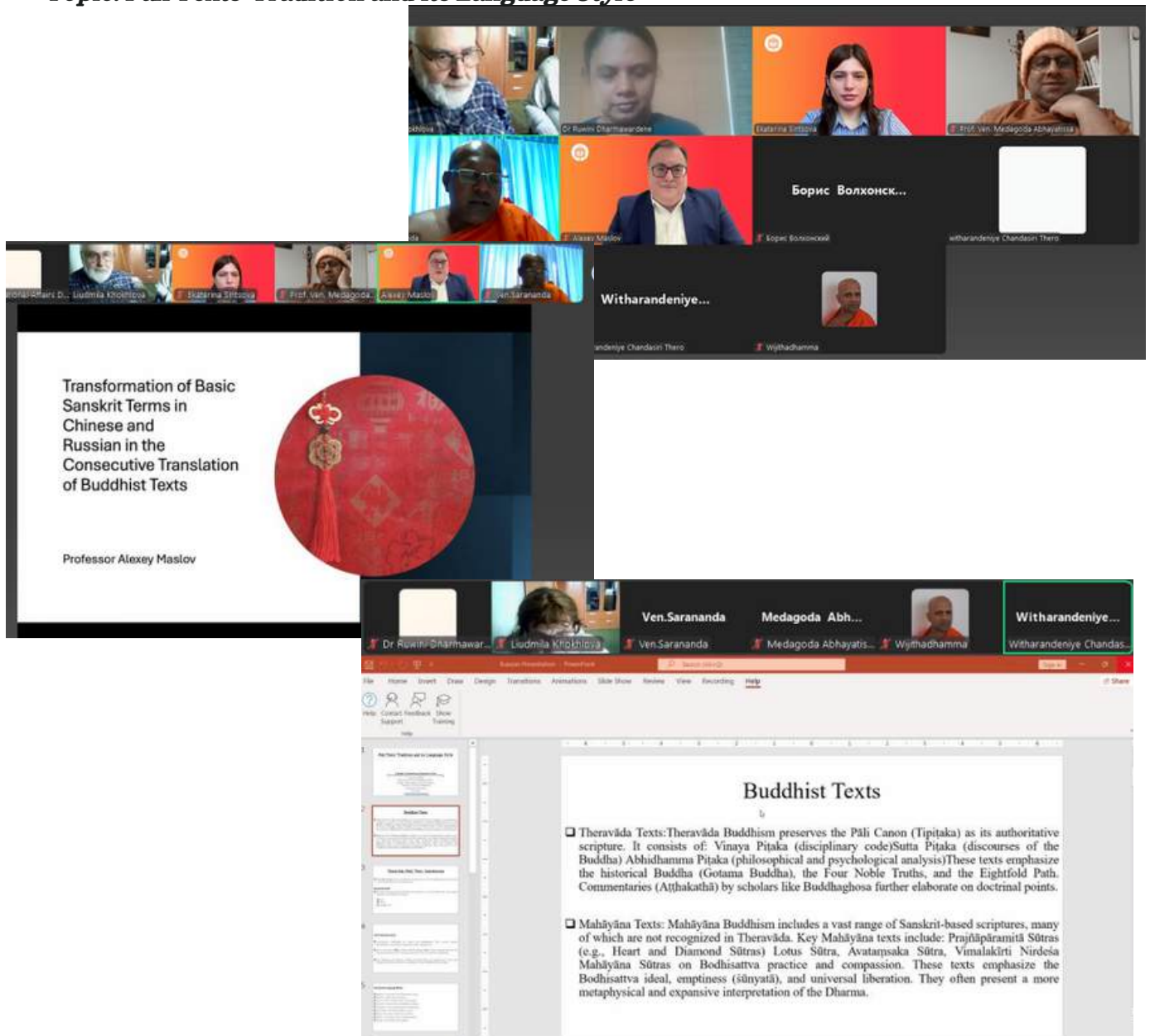
**Topic: Theories of Pali Translation**

3. Venerable Senior Professor Medagoda Abayathissa Thero, Senior Professor in Pali, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

**Topic: Introduction to Tripitaka**

4. Venerable Professor Witharandeniye Chandrasiri Thero, Professor in Pali, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura Sri Lanka

**Topic: Pali Texts' Tradition and its Language Style**



# **FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES**





## **Foreign Visit by ASEZ Group of Student Volunteers from Korea to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

On the 8th of August, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had the privilege of hosting the ASEZ Group of student volunteers from Korea. The visit was centered around an engaging seminar and discussion on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), environmental issues, combating desertification, and various projects aimed at environmental protection. This event took place at the Centre for Sustainability (CFS) at the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences. During the seminar, both the visiting students and our undergraduates had the opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss innovative approaches to pressing global environmental challenges. The visit also laid the groundwork for future collaborations, including the implementation of joint activities, student exchange programs, and collaborative efforts in environmental restoration. This visit marks the beginning of what we hope will be a fruitful and ongoing partnership between our institutions.

Dr. Thilak Chandrathilake, the Director of the Centre for Sustainability provided all the necessary facilities for the meeting. As attendees for the meeting, third-year undergraduates joined the event along with Mr. Kosala Gunawardene, the Curator of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science. This event was organized by the International Affairs Division of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



## **Delegation from the Zhejiang Shuren University, China**

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura is a well-known higher educational institute worldwide with over 100s of international collaborations. Zhejiang Shuren University, China is one of the pioneers that our university has partnerships over the years. As a result of this prolonged mutual understanding and friendship between the two institutions, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had the privilege of welcoming the delegation from Zhejiang Shuren University, China on 22nd October 2024. The Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor M.M. Pathmalal, and Deans of the Faculties, Research Council, Innovation, Invention and Venture Creations Council, senior academic staff members and the administrative officers graciously welcomed them to the university. During this visit, 06 delegates from the Zhejiang Shuren University visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura including Vice-President Professor Chen Jun, Professor Liu Weiping (Dean, Interdisciplinary Research Academy), Mrs. Zhao Rui (Deputy Dean, School of Humanities and Foreign Languages), Associate Professor Huang Qiubo (School of Economics and Social Welfare), Associate Professor Yin Shanshan (Interdisciplinary Research Academy) and Ms. Olivia Liu Jiani (Officer of International Affairs).

- Establishment of an International Joint Laboratory on Environmental Exposure and Health Research:

- A significant outcome of the visit was the agreement to establish an international joint laboratory focused on environmental exposure and health research, further cementing our commitment to collaborative research. Both universities will jointly develop or initiate appropriate collaborative projects to facilitate the start-up and long-term development of the joint laboratory and both sides will work together to secure funding for future collaborative research and international collaborative joint funding programmes.





## **Edith Cowan University - Fourth Academic Visit**

Department of Sports Science (DSS) of Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS) of University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) has a strong academic collaboration with Edith Cowan University, Australia, and has been carrying out different collaborative activities since 2017 under the MoU between ECU and USJ. ECU Study Tour has been a significant activity conducted under this MoU in the years of 2018, 2019, and 2023. Accordingly, for the fourth time, eleven (11) exercise and sports science undergraduates and two (02) staff members of the School of Medical and Health Sciences of ECU visited USJ from 24<sup>th</sup> November to 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024 as a part of their study programmes at ECU under HST3505 International Project Course.

DSS conducted a comprehensive programme for the ECU team, including the following sessions under the above study visit.

1. Sports science testing for university-level athletes using modern hi-tech sports science testing equipment brought by ECU
2. Knowledge sharing session on the sports science testing results dissemination by ECU staff and students for DSS undergraduates
3. Role of sports in the corporate sector
4. Sri Lankan folk games, Angampora (Sri Lankan martial arts), and an Elle session
5. Sri Lankan culture, heritage, and rural lifestyles, including a site visit
6. Mindfulness-based research and practices
7. Sri Lankan dimensions of sports and outdoor recreation
8. Yoga and relaxation techniques
9. Sri Lankan history and heritage, socio-economic perspectives, and Sri Lankan tourism, including a site visit
10. An excursion to Pinnawala, Kandy, Nuwaraeliya, and Sigiriya
11. City tour to the Colombo metropolitan area





All the above sessions were conducted with the assistance of (as resource persons) internal staff of DSS, academic staff from the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Medical Sciences of USJ, invited external resource persons, and undergraduates of DSS. During this visit, DSS received a library book collection of 79 textbooks from ECU.





## Partnership discussions with the University of Waterloo, Canada

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025, we had the privilege of initiating partnership discussions with the University of Waterloo, Canada. Dr. Ishari Waduware Jayabahu, International Relations Manager of the University of Waterloo, visited us and had discussions with the senior academic staff members of our university, including the Vice-Chancellor and the Deans of the Faculties.

With the coordination of Dr. Menaka Liyanage, Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Applied Sciences, and Ms. Shyamila Perera (Alumni of USJ/Mathematics Honours, at University of Waterloo/Faculty of Mathematics), the International Affairs Division facilitated this event.

Deans of the faculties, including Prof. Upul Subasinghe, Prof. Manori Gamage, Prof. Nilmini Liyanage, Dr. Nishan Dharmaweera, and senior academic staff members - Prof. Rukmal Weerasinghe, Prof. Sugandika Suresh, and Dr. Chathuranga Vidanage, attended this discussion, which was held at the Old boardroom of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce.





## Delegation and the guest lecture from the University of Illinois, USA

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025, an academic visit from the University of Illinois, USA, took place. The team composed of Dr. Kacie Athey – Assistant Professor of Crop Sciences, Dr. Sammer Jones - Director of Global Relations, Prof. Michael Miller - Professor of Food Microbiology and Dr. Mohammed Kamruzzaman, met the Vice Chancellor and the senior academic staff members of the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources. Followed by discussions with faculty members, a guest lecture was conducted by Dr. Kacie Athey on “ Biological Controls” at the Zoology Auditorium.

The delegation was formally received by the Vice Chancellor, emphasizing the institutional importance of this international collaboration. The meeting provided a platform for discussing strategic partnerships, research collaborations, and potential student exchange programs between the universities. Following the administrative meetings, extensive discussions were held with faculty members from both participating faculties. These sessions likely covered:

- Current research initiatives and ongoing projects
- Potential areas for collaborative research
- Student and faculty exchange opportunities
- Joint publication and grant application possibilities
- Sharing of best practices in curriculum development and teaching methodologies



**DR. KACIE ATHEY**  
Assistant Professor of Crop Sciences,  
University of Illinois,  
USA.

**ZOOLOGY  
GUEST  
LECTURE**

**Biological  
Controls**

22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2025  
1.00 P.M.  
Zoology Auditorium

Organized by:  
Department of Zoology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura



# **FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND COMMERCE**





## Delegation from the Zhejiang Shuren University, China

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura is a well-known higher educational institute worldwide with over 100s of international collaborations. Zhejiang Shuren University, China is one of the pioneers that our university has partnerships over the years. As a result of this prolonged mutual understanding and friendship between the two institutions, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had the privilege of welcoming the delegation from Zhejiang Shuren University, China on 22nd October 2024. The Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor M.M. Pathmalal, and Deans of the Faculties, Research Council, Innovation, Invention and Venture Creations Council, senior academic staff members and the administrative officers graciously welcomed them to the university. During this visit, 06 delegates from the Zhejiang Shuren University visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura including Vice-President Professor Chen Jun, Professor Liu Weiping (Dean, Interdisciplinary Research Academy), Mrs. Zhao Rui (Deputy Dean, School of Humanities and Foreign Languages), Associate Professor Huang Qiubo (School of Economics and Social Welfare), Associate Professor Yin Shanshan (Interdisciplinary Research Academy) and Ms. Olivia Liu Jiani (Officer of International Affairs).

- **Exploring New Initiatives and Facilities in E-Commerce:**

- The delegation toured the newly built Faculty Complex of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. In addition, discussions were held regarding the initiation of e-commerce-based internship programs, providing valuable opportunities for students.



## Cross-Border E-Commerce for Sri Lanka

Prof. Vilani Sachitra - Head of the Department of Commerce, had the opportunity to represent the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce as the nominee for the seminar on **Cross-border E-Commerce for Sri Lanka**, which was held in Fujian Province in China. The event was organized by the International Economic Cooperation Center of Fujian Province and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. It was held from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 02<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.

The seminar deliberated the detailed understanding of cross-border e-commerce policy, logistical cooperation, legal risk, and current trends, President Xi Jinping's thoughts on diplomacy, Sri Lanka-China relationship, and the role of RMB internationalization, aligned with the field visits. According to Prof. Vilani's perspective, cross-border e-commerce refers to an international commercial activity. In a complete process, transaction entities of different customs borders can agree on transactions and complete payment and settlement through e-commerce platforms. Cross-border e-commerce involves much more work and links or work requirements than simple domestic trade e-commerce. For example, product introduction, online platforms, real stores, overseas logistics, bonded warehousing, customs declaration and insurance, order delivery, and settlement of foreign exchange, marketing, and after-sales service etc. In this information age, it is an important way to realize the informatization, networking, and intelligence of traditional foreign trade by fully leveraging Internet technology. It is an important force for expanding e-commerce to the global market and achieving greater openness in the globalization era.





## Academic contributions to International Teaching Week- Rajagiri Business School, India



Through an opportunity facilitated by the International Relations Programme of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), Mr. Dilan Rathnayake, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Marketing Management, represented the University of Sri Jayewardenepura at the prestigious International Teaching Week (ITW) hosted by Rajagiri Business School, India, from June 23 to June 28, 2025.

During the programme, Mr. Rathnayake delivered a 1-credit course titled “Applied Consumer Analytics in Digital Marketing” to a dynamic cohort of 60 students enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma in Management. The 10-hour course was designed to bridge theory and practice, offering students a comprehensive understanding of contemporary consumer analytics tools and their strategic applications in digital marketing landscapes.

Beyond his teaching contributions, Mr. Rathnayake actively engaged in academic discourse and networking with fellow educators and scholars from a diverse range of institutions across the USA, Australia, Taiwan, France, Malaysia, Slovakia, and Thailand. These interactions fostered meaningful academic connections and highlighted the global nature of the event.

Mr. Rathnayake’s sessions received highly positive feedback from both students and faculty, with Rajagiri Business School expressing appreciation for the quality and relevance of his contributions. The institution also reaffirmed its interest in deepening collaborative academic efforts with FMSC in the future.



## **MBA/MSc Students of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce Gain Global Exposure Through Study Tour to Thailand**

A foreign study tour to Thailand was successfully organized by the MBA Unit for the MBA/MSc in Management 2022 batch, held from 3rd to 7th March 2025. The tour included 20 students and four academic staff members from the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The tour featured academic and industry visits aimed at linking theory to practice. Key highlights included visits to the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), where discussions on future collaborations were held, and to Ichitan Group Co., Ltd, a leading beverage manufacturer in Bangkok. Students also enjoyed cultural visits to famous temples, Dream World Bangkok, and a scenic dinner cruise along the Chao Phraya River.

The tour was coordinated by Prof. M.A. Kumudini Sriyalatha, along with Prof. Upuli Perera, Senior Prof. Lalitha S. Fernando, and Prof. Chandana Gunatilake, representing FMSC. Students described the experience as one of the most exciting and enriching journeys of their academic life.



## Indian Institute of Management (IIM) - Delegates Visit FMSC to Strengthen Prospects for International Collaboration

Following a series of productive discussions between the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), two esteemed delegates—Professor R. Srinivasan and Professor P. Sirinivasan—visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on September 3, 2024, to explore pathways for meaningful international academic collaboration.

The visit marked a significant step toward fostering stronger institutional ties between FMSC and IIM. During the meeting, the delegates engaged with FMSC leadership and academic staff, discussing a wide array of potential collaborative initiatives. These included faculty and student exchange programs, cross-teaching and co-teaching opportunities, joint classroom engagements, research partnerships, and the organization of study tours and immersion programs. Representing the FMSC, Prof. Dushan Jayawickram (Dean), Prof. Sandamali Galdolage (Faculty Coordinator - International Affairs), and Prof. Chandana Gunathilake participated in the discussion. It laid a strong foundation for future academic cooperation, reflecting both institutions' shared vision of enriching management education through global exposure, interdisciplinary learning, and collaborative scholarship. This visit further underscores FMSC's commitment to building international partnerships that contribute to academic excellence and enhance the global competencies of both faculty and students.





## Successful Completion of the Study Tour to Malaysia – MBA/MSc in Management Programme 2024

The MBA Unit of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) successfully organized an international study tour to Malaysia for students of the MBA/MSc in Management programme. Held from 3rd to 7th June 2024, the tour included over 40 students and five academic staff members.

The study tour featured academic and industrial visits that allowed students to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world practices. A highlight of the tour was the visit to INTI International University, where productive discussions were held on potential academic collaborations, including research partnerships and student exchange programs.



Additionally, students visited the Royal Selangor Pewter Factory, one of Malaysia's most iconic and historic manufacturers, gaining firsthand exposure to manufacturing excellence and heritage branding. To balance academic rigor with cultural immersion, the itinerary also included visits to major attractions such as Batu Caves, Genting Highlands, and the Sunway Lagoon theme park. The academic team representing FMSC included Prof. Wasantha Perera, Prof. Saman Yapa, Prof. Y.K. Weerakoon Banda, Prof. Hemamalie Gunatilake, and Prof. Kumudini Sriyalatha. Students described the experience as deeply enriching and memorable, both academically and personally, making the tour a resounding success.



## **Indian Youth Delegation Visits Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, USJ for Cross-Cultural Dialogue**

Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce had the honor of hosting a delegation of 17 representatives from India, as part of a youth exchange initiative facilitated by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Youth Center of Sri Lanka. The visit aimed to foster meaningful dialogue between youth from both nations.

During the visit, the Indian delegation engaged in discussions with undergraduates of the faculty, focusing on the challenges faced by youth in Sri Lanka and India, and exploring collaborative approaches to addressing these shared concerns. The interactive session provided a platform for mutual learning, cultural understanding, and idea sharing on youth empowerment and development.

A few students from the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) participated in the discussion, contributing valuable insights and perspectives. The event marked a successful step toward strengthening people-to-people ties and promoting youth diplomacy between the two countries.





## **Visit of Professor Dr. Goh Khang Wen, Pro Vice-Chancellor of INTI International University, to FMSC**

On 6th March 2025, the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), University of Sri Jayewardenepura, had the honor of welcoming Professor Dr. Goh Khang Wen, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of INTI International University, Malaysia, for an official visit. This visit marked a significant step forward in strengthening international academic collaboration, as FMSC and INTI International University are currently in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at promoting mutual cooperation in academic and research initiatives.

During the visit, Professor Dr. Goh engaged in productive discussions focusing on key areas for future collaboration. These include joint research projects, student and faculty exchange programs, co-hosted academic events, and potential pathways for curriculum development and enhancement. Both institutions expressed a shared commitment to advancing academic excellence and fostering a global learning environment for their students.

This visit is part of FMSC's ongoing efforts to broaden its international partnerships and create meaningful academic linkages that enhance its global presence. The prospective MoU with INTI International University is expected to pave the way for long-term engagement and impactful joint initiatives that benefit both institutions.

The faculty looks forward to formalizing this partnership and embarking on a collaborative journey that contributes to the advancement of management education and cross-border academic cooperation.



# **FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**





## **Delegation from Nottingham University, United Kingdom**

On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, the International Affairs Division of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had the privilege of meeting Ms. Anney Yimeng An - the Head of International Partnerships Relations at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom (UK). The senior lecturers of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of our university joined the discussion along with the International Affairs Division of the university. The student representative of the Buddhist Students' society of the Faculty of Medical Sciences also joined the discussion. The collaborative opportunities in the fields of medical science and management studies were discussed during the meeting.

Being the 07<sup>th</sup> in Research in UK, the University of Nottingham secures 86<sup>th</sup> place in the world and 16<sup>th</sup> in UK in QS World Ranking. Having 05 major faculties and 22 schools of study, the University of Nottingham offers over 200 Undergraduate and Postgraduate opportunities.



## **Bridging Borders Through Knowledge: Collaboration with the University of Leeds**

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura recently welcomed a distinguished delegation from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, in an effort to explore new opportunities for collaboration in the dynamic field of Medical and Health Science. This significant visit marked a step forward in fostering global academic connections and nurturing innovative research. Professor Piruthivi Sukumar, Professor of Global Engagement and Education and the Pro-Dean International, Faculty of Medicine and Health at the University of Leeds, was the delegate.

The meeting brought together department heads from the Faculty of Medical Science at our university, who engaged in meaningful discussions with the delegation. Both parties exchanged insights and explored potential avenues for joint research projects, academic exchanges, and collaborative advancements in healthcare education and innovation. A highlight of the discussions was the shared enthusiasm for research and the mutual commitment to driving impactful advancements in medical science. The exchange of ideas during the visit underscored the importance of cross-border collaboration in addressing global health challenges and building a better future.

This visit has set the stage for a promising partnership between the two institutions, with exciting prospects for groundbreaking research and educational initiatives that transcend borders. This visit took place on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and organized by the International Affairs Division of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.





## **Distinguished Guest Lecture by Professor Igor Olegovich Stoma – Rector of the Gomel State Medical University, Belarus**

On 09<sup>th</sup> May 2025, our university hosted a distinguished guest lecture featuring Professor Igor Olegovich Stoma, Rector of Gomel State Medical University, Belarus. Senior Professor Pathmalal M. Manage, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, gracefully welcomed Prof. Igor and the invitees. Our Vice Chancellor emphasized the value the guest lecturers bring to our academic environment, allowing the community to gain new perspectives, hear real-world insights, and engage in meaningful dialogue that extends beyond traditional classroom settings. It was witnessed that the participation from senior academic staff members across multiple faculties, including the Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS), Faculty of Technology (FOT), Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources (FUAB), Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), and Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (FAHS). The event also saw enthusiastic participation from postgraduate students across disciplines and graduate teaching assistants as well. Professor Igor Olegovich Stoma serves as the Rector of Gomel State Medical University in Belarus and holds multiple prestigious positions.





Professor Stoma delivered an insightful presentation titled “Microbiome Studies in Medicine: Clinical Applications and Challenges.” The lecture explored the complex relationship between the human microbiome and health, highlighting how microbiome research is transforming our understanding of disease mechanisms and influencing modern diagnostic and treatment strategies. Professor Stoma himself had initiated contact with our Vice-Chancellor, expressing interest in visiting and sharing his expertise at our university. This proactive approach demonstrated his dedication to knowledge sharing and commitment to mentoring the next generation of scholars and professionals across international borders. This guest lecture represents an important step in fostering international academic collaboration and knowledge exchange. Professor Stoma’s visit not only enriched our understanding of microbiome studies in medicine but also opened potential avenues for future research partnerships and academic exchanges between our university and Gomel State Medical University. The event exemplifies our university’s commitment to providing world-class educational experiences by bringing leading international experts to interact with our academic community. The event was successfully coordinated by the International Affairs Division, in collaboration with Dr. Lasantha Amarakoon.



# **FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY**



## **Strengthening partnerships with the Kanazawa University, Japan**

A distinguished delegation from Kanazawa University recently visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, marking another significant milestone in the growing academic partnership between the two prestigious institutions. The visit underscored both universities' commitment to fostering international collaboration and expanding educational opportunities for students and faculty. The delegation, comprising senior academic administrators and faculty members from Kanazawa University, was warmly received by the Vice-Chancellor, including representatives from various departments of the Faculty of Technology, including the Dean of the faculty, Prof. Nilmini Liyanage. During their visit, the visitors engaged in comprehensive discussions about potential areas of collaboration, including student exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and faculty mobility opportunities.

Kanazawa University, established in 1949 and recognized as one of Japan's leading national universities, brings considerable expertise in science, technology, and liberal arts education. USJ, with a strong international outlook, offers a unique multicultural academic environment that bridges Eastern educational traditions. The delegation toured USJ's modern facilities and participated in academic presentations showcasing both institutions' research capabilities.

Both institutions expressed optimism about formalizing collaborative agreements that would benefit their respective academic communities. The visit concluded with commitments to continue dialogue and develop concrete partnership frameworks that will enhance educational exchanges and research collaboration between Japan and Sri Lanka.

This initiative reflects the broader trend of Asian universities building stronger regional networks to address global educational challenges and opportunities.





# **FACULTY OF ENGINEERING**



**Academic Delegation from Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines),  
Dhanbad, India**

On 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024, a delegation visit from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhanbad, India to explore the potential avenues for a significant academic and research collaboration. Dr. Tanmoy Maity - Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and the Associate Dean of international Relations and Alumni Affairs, and Mr. Mritunjay Sharma - Assistant Registrar of international Relations and Alumni Affairs of the Indian Institute of Technology participated in the event as delegates. They were embraced by Dr. Nishan Dharmaweera, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Ruwini Dharamawardene, Director of the International Affairs Division, and the senior academic staff members of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

This prospective collaboration was focused on key areas including student exchanges, joint faculty research projects, and other academic initiatives. After thoroughly reviewing the Faculty of Engineering's disciplines, the delegates have identified strong synergies with their own departments, particularly in Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Computer Engineering. During their visit, the IIT(ISM) team engaged with faculty members to discuss the specifics of these collaborative opportunities and interacted with the undergraduate engineering students, providing insights into higher study possibilities at IIT(ISM), Dhanbad.

All the heads of the departments of the Faculty of Engineering including Dr. Ganga Samarasekara, Dr. Dulini Mudunkotuwa, Dr. Udaya Wijenayake, Dr. Uditha Wijewardhana, and Dr. Shyam Kularathna engaged in this fruitful discussion. This visit marks the beginning of what we hope will be a long-term, mutually beneficial partnership, fostering academic excellence and innovative research between both institutions.





## **“The Belt and Road” International Conference of Deans/Heads in Mechanical Engineering and Leadership Forum on Engineering Technology, China**

Dr. Dulini Yasara Mudunkotuwa, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, attended the “The Belt and Road” International Conference of Deans/Heads in Mechanical Engineering and Leadership Forum on Engineering Technology held from November 15th to 17th, 2024 in Xi'an, China.

It was an opportunity for networking, learning and education. International participants of the field of Engineering attended this prestigious event.

During this conference, Dr. Mudunkotuwa delivered a presentation on **“Challenge Based Education in Engineering”**.



# **FACULTY OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES**



## **Initiating the partnerships with the Hunan University of Chinese Medicine**

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) has embarked on a significant milestone in international academic collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, China. This strategic partnership marks a pivotal moment in fostering cross-cultural educational exchange and advancing traditional medicine research between Sri Lanka and China. The MoU establishes a comprehensive framework for collaboration encompassing multiple dimensions of academic excellence. Both institutions will facilitate student exchange programs, enabling undergraduate and postgraduate students to experience diverse learning environments and gain exposure to different medical traditions and practices. Faculty exchange initiatives will promote knowledge sharing, joint research endeavors, and collaborative teaching methodologies.

This partnership holds particular significance given the rich heritage of traditional medicine systems in both countries. Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, renowned for its expertise in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), brings decades of research excellence and clinical experience. USJ, with its strong foundation in healthcare education and research, offers valuable perspectives on Ayurvedic medicine and modern healthcare approaches prevalent in South Asia. The collaboration is expected to yield substantial benefits including joint research publications, shared resources for laboratory facilities, and development of innovative treatment methodologies that integrate traditional and modern medical practices. Students and faculty from both institutions will gain invaluable insights into holistic healthcare approaches, expanding their understanding of complementary medicine systems.

Furthermore, this partnership aligns with global trends toward integrative medicine and cross-cultural healthcare solutions. The initiative demonstrates both universities' commitment to advancing medical education through international cooperation and their dedication to preserving and promoting traditional healing practices.





# **FACULTY OF URBAN AND AQUATIC BIORESOURCES**



## **Strengthening Academic Ties: Meiji University Delegation Explores Continued Collaboration with Sri Jayewardenepura**

Prof. Takashi Ikeda, Professor in Department of Agriculture, School of Agriculture, Meiji University, Japan visited the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 17th March 2025. He is an expertise in the areas of production systems, horticulture and instrumentation engineering. Earlier, Prof. Ikeda had visited our university. During his visit to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura from 21st of March to 24th of March 2023, he had some fruitful meetings regarding development of collaboration between the two institutes. He has also conducted two guest talks under the course module UBR2216: Farming in Control Environments of 2nd year 1st semester on Protected cultivation and hydroponic culture techniques for urban area and Brief introduction of vertical farm for future agriculture. This opportunity was a diverse experience for the students and the staff for the future collaborations of the department and the faculty.

This year, in align with the ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, Prof. Ikeda visited the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. M.M. Pathmalal to further discuss the future activities based on the MoU. As FUAB is a recently established faculty of our university, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized the need for having international exposure to the faculty. Senior Prof. Pradeep Jayaweera, Dean, Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources added to this justifying the need for utilizing the maximum benefit of the sophisticated technological resources we have, to reach out to the international community. Currently, Prof. Ikeda is working as a visiting lecturer of the Department of Urban Bioresources, Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (FUAB/USJ) while co-supervising a PhD student from FUAB/USJ as well. During the discussions, the future aspects in student and staff exchange programmes, opportunity to conduct double degree programmes, joint research publications, joint online workshops on recent advancements and researches in the discipline of Agriculture for the students of both the institutions collaborating other universities which we have partnerships both local and international, as well as the potential avenues for conducting joint research conferences were also discussed at the meeting.

The link was initiated by Dr. Udari Rathnathunga, Senior Lecturer, Department of Urban Bioresources, Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources and the Faculty coordinator of International Affairs. The International Affairs Division of the university facilitated the meeting. Prof. Ikeda had the opportunity to meet with the senior academic staff members of the Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources as well. This visit marked the continuous involvement of the faculty and the university with the international community.



# **FACULTY OF DENTAL SCIENCES**





## **The 3rd "Silk Road Cup" International Clinical Skills Exchange Event for Dental Students**

Prof. Priyake Palipana and Ms. Dinithi Jayasekera, a student of the 1st batch of the Faculty of Dental Sciences (FDS), University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ), represented the faculty and the university at the 3rd "Silk Road Cup" International Clinical Skills Exchange Event for Dental Students. Following the great success of previous events, the 3rd "Silk Road Cup" International Clinical Skills Exchange Event for Dental Students was held in Xi'an, China, from October 14-17, 2024. This was organized by the faculty and students of the School of Dentistry, Seoul National University, China.

This Exchange Event aimed to build a platform for friendly collaboration among stomatological universities in the world. Furthermore, they expected teaching and learning could be improved through this event, as well as jointly creating a nurturing atmosphere. In parallel with this event, the 2024 Silk Road International Dental Forum was held at the same time, where the most prestigious researchers in the field of stomatology in China shared their latest results, covering a wide range of disciplines in the fields of dentistry, oral diseases and treatment, clinical dentistry, social dentistry, etc.

Ms. Jayasekera was awarded one of the "Best Performance Award". In addition to participating in the event, discussions were held with representatives from the Air Force Medical University regarding future collaborations. Notably, the university is planning to establish a student exchange program aimed at providing international exposure and advanced clinical training for dental students. Prof. Palipana highlighted the potential benefits of this program, particularly for the faculty students excelling in the Bachelor of Dental Sciences curriculum. This opportunity could pave the way for students from subsequent batches to gain international clinical experience and expand their professional horizons. The participation of Prof. Palipana and Ms. Dinithi Jayasekera in this event marks a significant milestone for the faculty and the university, showcasing its commitment to fostering global academic and professional connections in dental education. The International Affairs Division coordinated this event with the organizers of the event and the former Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Senior Prof. Surangi Yasawardene.



# **FACULTY OF COMPUTING**



## **Visit of delegates from the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

On November 13th 2024, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura had the honor of welcoming a distinguished delegate from the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom. Prof. Moyra Boland, Professor of Creative Pedagogy and Dean for Global Engagement in Central and South Asia, represented Glasgow University in a meeting held at the university's administration boardroom. This visit was graced by the Vice-Chancellor – Senior Professor M.M. Pathmalal as the chief guest. Key participants included Prof. Prasad M. Jayaweera - the Dean of the Faculty of Computing (FOC), Prof. Rasika Perera - the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), Prof. Roshan Ajward - the Co-Chair of the Research Council, senior academic staff members from the Faculty of Computing including Dr. M.D.P. Pieris - Senior Lecturer, Head of the Department of Information Systems Engineering and Informatics, Dr.M.D.S.Seneviratne - Senior Lecturer, Head of the Department of Knowledge Engineering and Communication, Dr. D.G.N.D. Jayarathna - Senior Lecturer, Head of the Department of Scientific Computing/ Faculty of Computing and Faculty Coordinator of International Affairs and Dr. Ruwini Dharmawardene, the Director of the International Affairs Division of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Commencing the discussions, Prof. Roshan Ajward introduced the Research Council and the university's collaborations in the research and development sector. Furthermore, he empathized with our contribution to high-impact research, social impacts, commercialization and industrialization of our research findings, patents, and current research centers of the university and their involvement in research projects. He especially mentioned the commitment of our research and alignment of their outcomes with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthering the discussions, Prof. Rasika Perera mentioned the opportunities at the Faculty of Graduate Studies as the apex body of postgraduate studies at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Prasad Jayaweera also talked about the possible avenues for postgraduate programmes related to computer science. The Vice-Chancellor also discussed the possible research partnerships.



Prof. Boland explored avenues for academic collaboration, including potential exchange programs, research partnerships, and initiatives to promote creative pedagogy across disciplines. In addition to that, she highlighted the similarities between the research activities and centers of both universities. As one of the leading universities to tackle climate change, the University of Glasgow acts as a research beacon in the fields of chronic diseases, Nano and quantum technology as well as human and animal health. The meeting underscored both universities' commitment to fostering global engagement and enhancing academic networks.



# ONE WORLD ONE USJ



DELEGATION FROM ZHEJIANG SHUREN UNIV  
ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL AFFA

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION