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The newsletter of the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa

“ITUM News” is a bi-annual electronic publication which carries news concerning of the academic, cultural and communal events of the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa.

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by Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne, Competent Authority / ITUM

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21st Century Oriented Diplomates from ITUM

As the Competent Authority (CA) of the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa (ITUM), I am writing this short article with pleasure. This article highlights new trends in higher education in the world in producing graduates and diplomates for the 21st century.

Even after the completion of two decades of the 21st century, still, we produce our graduates or diplomates to suit the 20th century for which we have enough evidence. The main objective of this brief note is to focus on new trends and changes required to the system.

Most of the higher education institutions were focusing on producing graduates and diplomates with Knowledge: both theoretical and practical. But today, Knowledge alone is not sufficient but Skills, Attitudes, Values, Professionalism and Vision for Life as well as up-dated Mindsets and Paradigms too are very important to be successful in the 21st century.

In short, today, the market is asking for K-SAM graduates. The detailed breakdown is as follows:

Knowledge – What they know. (both theoretical and practical knowledge)

Skills – What they can do.

- Creativity & Innovation
- Critical thinking & Problem solving
- Communication & IT skills
- Collaboration, Co-operation & Team work

Attitudes, Values, Professionalism and Vision for Life –How they behave.

- Citizenship
- Character`

Mindsets and Paradigms – How they pursue the world.

- Continuous Life-Long Learning

To develop the above K-SAM graduates and diplomates the following changes are very much desired.

The curriculum has to be up-dated targeting to produce well-rounded graduates.

The teaching and learning have to be shifted from Teacher Centered to Student Centered learning based on the principles of the Outcome Based Education.

The evaluation has to be done to test all aspects of K-SAM of graduates and diplomats.

In short, today, the market is asking for well-rounded, full-option graduates and diplomates. However, still, we produce graduates equipped with mainly Knowledge and that is not enough to fulfil the expectations of today's market needs.

All higher education institutes including ITUM should modernize their thinking processes and procedures to guarantee that they produce well rounded, full option graduates and diplomates as their OUTCOME.

I am happy to see that ITUM is fully committed to achieve the above long-term goal and objective in an effective and efficient manner. I wish them good luck.



By Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne

Academic Events & Services

Diploma Awarding Ceremony 2019



The Diploma Awards Ceremony was held on 03rd December, 2019 at Dr. T. A.G. Gunasekara Multifunctional Hall of the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa. Prof. K.K.C.K. Perera, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa preceded the event.

This year over 650 students who had successfully completed the National Diploma in Technology in the fields of Chemical Engineering Technology, Civil Engineering Technology,

Mechanical Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering Technology, Marine Engineering Technology, Nautical Studies, Polymer Technology and Textile & Clothing Technology from 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 batches were awarded the Diploma at this glamorous award ceremony.



Research Symposium – 2019

The academic community of ITUM showcased novel knowledge acquired through research at the Seventh Annual Research Symposium organized by the research committee on the theme “From Challenges to Opportunities”.



This event was held on 9th August 2019 at the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa, Diyagama, Homagama under the guidance of the Competent Authority, Major General (Retd.) S. K. Thirunavukarasu. The Director General of the National Science Foundation, Prof. A.K.W. Jayawardena graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and highlighted the opportunities and the grants available for university academics to undertake research and the provisions available for research publications in Sri Lanka and overseas. Prof. Jayawardena encouraged the staff to publish research findings in the Journal of the National Science Foundation which is the only index journal up to date in Sri Lanka. Prof. S.M.A. Nanayakkara delivered the keynote address on Delayed Ettiringite Formation (DEF). Dr. (Mrs.) M.C.W. Somaratne, Head, Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology delivered a guest lecture titled “Need a Change in Research Paradigm”.

Registration of Students for the National Diploma in Technology - Batch 2019/2020

The Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa is currently in the process of registering students for the National Diploma in Technology program to be conducted in 2020. Applications were called from qualified candidates through a gazette notification published on 7th June 2019. After an initial screening, an aptitude test was conducted for selected candidates on 15th September 2019 at four examinations centres islandwide. The filed selection of those who had got through the aptitude test was done with the consultation of the Admission and Selection Committee appointed for the academic year 2019/2020. After finalizing the filed selections, the registration of students for the National Diploma in Technology was conducted in six rounds.

Academic session on Air Conditioning and Refrigeration

The Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering organized a session on air conditioning and refrigeration. This session was conducted on 13th September 2019 by Mr. H.G. Akila Darshana of K & A Engineering (Pvt) Ltd which is one of the leading companies in the air conditioning sector. The resource person was a field expert in the areas of designing, installation as well as commissioning of air conditioning systems. Students enthusiastically attended the program which aimed at boosting their confidence to master and apply abstract concepts, question familiar ideas, and solve complex problems.

Workshops conducted on Mechanical Engineering Technology

The Division of Mechanical Engineering Technology conducted a practical session on handling workshops for technology stream undergraduates of the University of Kelaniya, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the University of Sabaragamuwa University in November and December 2019.



Experiential Learning through Field Visits

Technological education should not be limited to abstract knowledge and classroom teaching and learning. After graduation, students have to deal with the world of work and find solutions for practical issues. However, this kind of knowledge cannot be acquired passively by merely listening to lectures. Thus, the Division of Polymer and Chemical Engineering Technology arranged several field visits to provide students with industry exposure.

Chemical Engineering students visited Pelwatta sugar manufacturing plant, INSEE Cement, Puttalam, Lakvijaya power plant, Norochchole and LINK natural (Pvt) Ltd, Horana and the students who are following polymer technology visited Hanwella Rubber Products Ltd.

Field Visit to Mahaweli Hydropower Stations

Second year students attached to the Division of Electrical Engineering Technology and the academic staff of the division visited Victoria, Randenigala and Rantembe hydropower stations on the 23rd and the 24th of December 2019.



Field Visit to Orel Cooperation (Pvt) Ltd.



Second year students of the Division of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and the academic staff members visited Orel Cooperation(Pvt) Ltd. at Watareka in Padukka on 19th July 2019 to gain a sound knowledge of the overall behaviour of electrical equipment and cable manufacturing.

Extended Library Services



The library has launched a number of extended services by setting up new library collections and taking measures to popularize the use of the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The two novel collections are the “Scheduled Reference (SR) collection” and the “English Learning (EL) collection”.

The SR collection consists of recommended texts that are limited in number or highly expensive texts which

can only be borrowed for overnight reference. These books are labelled “R” in green colour. The EL collection includes basic English language books and short storybooks for reference which allow students to freely learn and enjoy the language.

Although the OPAC had been introduced earlier, it was not commonly in tandem. However, the library is now facilitated with a laptop which comes in handy if anyone wants to trace the books available in the library via the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).



Book Donations to the Library

The library committee and the staff acknowledge the following donors for bestowing valuable books.

- Mr. Murugesu Pushparaj
- Mr. D.K. Withanage
- Prof. G. T. F. De Silva
- Mr. Gamini D. Nanayakkara



Personal achievements, Appointments & Staff Development

A new Competent Authority



Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne assumed duties as the Competent Authority (CA) to the ITUM with effect from 1st January 2020. Dr. Nawaratne is a person who has a novel vision to make Sri Lanka the most respected nation in the region by

shifting the paradigms of the people who can make it happen. He was a former Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education and has served the country holding numerous leading positions in government institutions.

Head of Division -Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology

Eng. Gamini D. Nanayakkara (Senior Lecturer/Grade I) was appointed as the Head of the Division of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology with effect from 3rd September 2019.



Head of Division- Civil Engineering Technology



Dr. Premila Kumari Semanada (Senior Lecturer/Grade II) was appointed as the Head of the Division of Civil Engineering Technology with effect from 13th August 2019.

Post of Assistant Librarian

Dr.(Mrs.) G.D.M.N. Samaradiwakara was appointed on “contract basis” to cover up the duties of the post of Assistant Librarian(contract basis) with effect from 21st October 2019.



Training for non-academic staff

- IT program
- 5S implement
- English programs
- Lab Procedures, Lab Design and Safety
- Tamil Course

Programs conducted by the Staff Development Committee

Plenty of programs have been conducted by the Staff Development Committee during the last six months of the year 2019.

Training for academic staff and administrative staff

- Workshop on Moodle
- Post Exam Documentation
- How to Identify Warnings Signs of Destructive Minds
- Counselling and Advantage of Doing Counselling
- How to conduct an Inquiry

Cultural Events

“Asani”

“Asani” is an annual cultural extravaganza organized in grandeur by the NDT Students’ Union every year. This year, ‘Asani 2019’ was held from the 14th to the 18th of October at T.A.G. Gunasekara Multifunctional Hall. This three-day event comprised an exhibition, a talent show and a musical event.



14th October: The day marked the inauguration of the exhibition of arts, poems and photographs selected from the Inter-university arts, poetry and photography contest. Besides, “Chaudhari”, the stage drama directed by Mr. Tharanga Bandara which won the secondplace for the best script at the Stage Drama Festival 2018 added colour to the day

16th October: Awarding gifts and certificates for the winners of the Inter-University art, poetry and photography contest took place on this day



and 78th and 79th loop of NDT Golden Chain added glamour showing their unbeatable and magical talents.

18th October: The musical eve on the third and last day made the entire event memorable. Popular and sensational artists, Athma Liyanage, Umariya Singhawanshe, Sanka Dineth along with ‘NAADA’ band set the stage on fire from 6.30 p.m. onwards until midnight. Mr. Kalum Srimal who has won the hearts of many as a presenter anchored the event.



‘Ran Hiru Abhiman 2019’ -Sinhala New Year ceremony

‘Ran Hiru Abhiman 2019’, Sinhala and Tamil New Year ceremony was held on 07th July 2019 in the ITUM playground. This event was organized by the 79th NDT batch and was held with the participation



of present NDT students, past NDT students, ITUM staff and the undergraduate of the University of Moratuwa.

Lots of traditional as well as fun games and activities had been organized however, the most exciting events were climbing the greasy pole and the New Year drama.



Annual Pirith Chanting and Alms Giving



ITUM students organized a “pirith” chanting and alms for Buddhist monks to invoke blessings on the Institution. The “pirith” chanting was held on 14th December 2019 at the Administrative Building of ITUM and morning alms was offered on the following day with the support and participation of students and the staff.



“Itipandam Hendewa” and “Ulpatha”

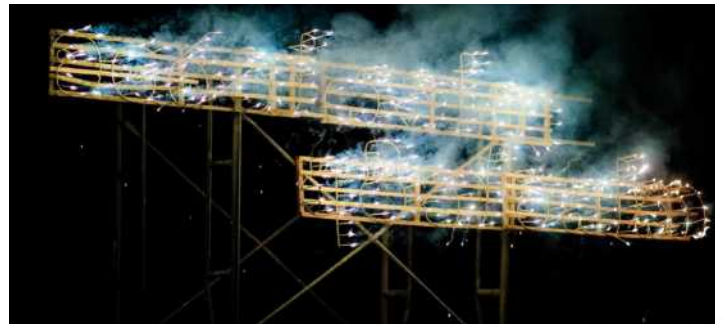


‘Itipandam Hendawa’ and ‘Ulpatha’ are literary events organized by the Literary Arts Sub-Committee of the ITUM. Under the programme ‘Ulpatha’, students enjoyed the movie, ‘Forest Gump’ at the open-air canteen on 7th November 2019. The film was followed by a discussion circle. Under ‘Itipandam Hendawa’, students enjoyed poetry in a candlelit surrounding on 30th October 2019.



Freshers' Night

ITUM second year students organized an event to welcome first year students on 20th July 2019. After a spectacular firework display, second year students welcomed freshers warm heartedly. Magical and entertaining performances of both first and second year students added colour to the event. Academic and non-academic staff members had also been invited for the event.



'Sarasavi Damsara'

'Sarasavi Damsara', a Bhakthi Geetha performance which was organized for the first time by the first year students to celebrate the Posen poyaday was held on 18th June 2019 from 6.30 p. m. onwards at T.A.G Gunasekara Memorial Multifunctional Hall.



Sports News

Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) – 2019



The SLUG festival where the strength of the champions meets their spirit of victory was held this year with the participation of sportsmen and sportswomen of the state universities in Sri Lanka. 18 athletes representing ITUM participated in the athletic meet held on the 27th and the 28th of June 2019 at Sugathadasa Stadium. Among them, W.M.T.N. Kumara of ITUM stole the limelight winning the silver medal in javelin throw and secured 4th and 6th place in discus throw and putt shoot respectively.

The rugby tournament was held from June 06 2019 to August 10 2019 at B.O.I. Ground, Koggala and D.U.A. Udayanga Silva of ITUM was



a member of the team UoM which won the bronze

medal at the above event. Hockey, baseball and football, swimming, badminton, taekwondo, wrestling and "elle" tournaments were held in August 2019. M.B. Rawry who represented the UoM team bagged

the gold medal and the baseball and the volleyball (men and women) teams got qualified for the quarterfinal round.

In September 2019 table tennis, karate and volleyball tournaments took place. K.H.K.S. Wijesekara and A.L.A.S.L. Liyanaarachchi won the bronze medal in carrom and karate respectively and H.P. Weerakoon

who performed excellently was crowned as the winner of the table tennis tournament.



Mahesh Fernando Memorial Baseball Championship 2019

ITUM congratulates Harshana Madhushan Wijerathna and C.A.B. Pallegedara who represented the UOM baseball team that won the championship of the tournament organized by the University of Colombo on the 16th and the 17th of August 2019.



"Dusra" Cricket Tournament

To strengthen unity among students of ITUM and other departments of UoM, a cricket tournament was held at the University of Moratuwa. ITUM students, past students and UoM undergraduates representing all faculties attended the event which was held on 21st December 2019.



Battle of Fists - 2019



W.M.S. Wijesinghe and A.L.A.S.L. Liyanaarachchi participated in "Battle of Fists," University Karate Championship organized by the University of Kelaniya on 27th November 2019 and became the first runners up of "Kumite" event under 50 kg and 67 kg weight categories respectively.



6th Grip to Grip Inter-University Carrom Tournament 2019



K.H.K.S. Wijesekara attached to the Division of Textile and Clothing was adjudged the Best Novice Player at the Inter-University Carrom Tournament 2019 organized by the University of Kelaniya. Also, ITUM team won the second place of the tournament.

Grand Slicers Inter-University Invitational Carrom Championship



UoM carrom team secured the second place at Grand Slicers Inter-University Invitational Carrom Championship 2019 organized by the Open University and K.H.K.S. Wijesekara of ITUM was a member of the team.



HNDE Masters' Trophy – 2019

ITUM volleyball team won the third place at HNDE Masters' volleyball tournament held in 2019.



Inter Faculty Baseball Tournament 2019

Inter-faculty baseball tournament was held in July 2019 in the playground of the University of Moratuwa. Team ITUM bagged the gold medal of the tournament.



Appointments

The following students of the ITUM were appointed as the Vice-captains of the university volleyball (men and women), karate, elle and javelin throw teams for the year 2019/20.



HPPI Sandanayaka
Textile 2017/18
Volleyball Men



AK Sandeepani
Electrical 2018/19
Volleyball Women



Sandani Abeywickrama
Civil 2017/18
Elle Women



A.L.A.S.L. Liyanaarachchi
Electrical 2018/19
Karate Men



W.M.T.N. Kumara
Civil 2018/19
Javelin throw Men

Colours Awarding- 2018

The annual colours awarding ceremony of the University of Moratuwa was held at the Civil Engineering Department Auditorium in 2019. 17 students of ITUM received university colours for several sports events at this glamorous evening.

2016/17 BATCH

TT



PAHP Weerakoon-EE

SWIMMING



TMK Kanishka-CH



KASR Thilakarathne-TT

BADMINTON



AMUCP Gunasekara-TT



JKRL Gayathri-TT

VOLLYBALL



RGIGI Prabhath-TT



MMKS Maheepala-TT



TGG Shasheema-TT

ATHLETIC



SMGC Siriwardhana-TT



DGC Mihirani-CH

2016/17 BATCH

VOLLYBALL



HPPI Sandanayaka-TT



RAUSD Ranasinghe-CE

BASEBALL



WVPHM Wijerathna-CE

ATHLETIC



HAK Niwanthaka-PT

HOCKEY



Wishwa Karunanayake-ME

MORA Slam -2019



UoM carrom team won the second place at MORA Slam -2019 organized by the University of Moratuwa. K.H.K.S. Wijesekara of the Division of Textile and Clothing Technology performed outstandingly in the competition.



Sports Tournament

A sports tournament was held in semester I, 2019 to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of first year students in ITUM playground. The event was organized by Ms. Dilini Anushka Jayakodi, Lecturer- in – Charge of sports studies and the physical education instructors of ITUM under the auspices of Mrs. M.M.P.D. Samarasekara, Director, ITUM and Dr. Samanthi Mathugama, Head, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies. Students participated in team events such as volleyball, netball, badminton, cricket and football.



Communal & Other Events

69 NDT 72 Golden Jubilee Celebrations

72nd NDT batch (1969) celebrated the Golden Jubilee by conducting a series of celebratory events on 5th October 2019. Many batch mates including expats graced the occasion. Celebrations started at the University of Moratuwa and then the participants reached ITUM premises and conducted the formal meeting which was followed by a cultural event and a felicitation ceremony for their former lecturers.



Tree Planting Campaign at Kudamaduwa Temple



Second year students of the Division of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology along with the Head of Division, Eng. Gamini Nanayakkara initiated a tree planting campaign on the premises of Kudamaduwa Temple on 20th July 2019.



Athwela 2019

'Athwala' is an annual event organized by the NDT Students' Union. A series of mathematics and science seminars for O/L students was conducted by the NDT students for 33 selected schools in rural areas under this program during the month of December in 2019. A sticker selling campaign was also conducted to raise funds for the program.



Blood Donation Campaign



74th NDT batch (2013-2014) organized a blood donation campaign on 10th October 2019 in the ITUM to commemorate the first memorial of their batch mate, Pulasthi Theekshana.



“Gilanpasa Poojawa”

ITUM Buddhist Society monthly offers evening “Gilanpasa” for the villagers who observe “Sil” on Poya days at Shailaparyatharamaya temple, Magammana.



Green Troops-Diyagama Cleanup Campaign

In connection with the annual theme, #Stop Deforestation, Green Troops ITUM organized a cleanup campaign. The event took place on 13th December 2019 with the participation of over 50 students who removed nonbio-degradable items scattered around Diyagama village. The collected waste was segregated and handed over to the Divisional Secretariat, Homagama for proper disposal.



The campaign raised awareness on proper waste disposal. Villagers also who were generous to spare some time to protect the mother nature

supported the event.

Poson Dansala



A “Poson Dansala” was organized by the NDT Students’ Union on 16th June 2019 at the ITUM shopping complex for the second consecutive year under the aegis of ITUM staff and villagers. This time steamed jackfruit and plain-tea were offered.



Article

Aesthetic for better Technological Education: ITUM goes from STEM to STEAM



The Aesthetic Studies with four main subjects was introduced in 2018, as a compulsory subject for ITUM

engineering students, to build a balanced personality equipped with creativity. This was probably the first time Aesthetic Studies, focusing in four areas, Dancing, Drama, Music and Visual Arts was introduced to an Engineering

programme in Sri Lanka.

Since the initial years, the student culture and the broader institutional system have now fully accepted Aesthetic Studies as a valuable augmentation to the student curricula and student life, for a self-actualizing future-ready workforce.

Future-ready employees need to have multiple areas of expertise or at least appreciate how a range of skills fit together.

STEM represents science, technology, engineering and maths. “STEAM”



represents STEM plus the arts. The main difference between STEM and STEAM is, STEM explicitly focuses on scientific concepts. STEAM investigates the same concepts but does this through inquiry and problem-based learning methods used in the creative process. It makes connections between concepts and solving problems in novel and exciting





ways, where students engage actively, making discoveries in “aha” moments.

The final productions, visual arts exhibition, music, drama and dancing events that were held four times consecutively, for two batches, during the last two years have become strong memory inscriptions of a happy student life as evident from the plethora of social media posts by students. The effects of the Aesthetic Studies program have enhanced the “Asani” cultural event that was organized by students with much vigour and excitement with the support of Aesthetic lecturers.

STEAMing is to power highly intelligent, creative and playful technologists output from ITUM.



By Ms. Lankni Kumarasiri,
Lecturer - in charge, Aesthetic Studies

Dr. Lalith Manage,
Visiting Lecturer in Visual Arts & Aesthetic Studies



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