

SLAAS NEWS

Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Association for the
Advancement of Science

General President's Message

Science provides a sense for people to understand their surroundings and helps them to think beyond what they see. Even if they choose not to learn science, they cannot ignore it in day-to-day life. Knowingly or unknowingly, they engage in the scientific process to carry out their daily activities. Those who are hardliners defending influences of supernatural powers, believe in nonscientific explanations and propagating such discourse also benefits from the outcomes of science and scientific thinking. Therefore, effective science communication is a key to make a better tomorrow. Effective science communication informs people about the benefits, risks, and other costs of their decisions, thereby allowing them to make sound choices. Although, the most effective communication cannot guarantee that all people will agree about what those choices should be, it is helpful for most of the population to evaluate merits and demerits among alternative choices. It will help them to arrive at relatively rational decisions than been in the dark. Furthermore, inculcating the elements of an analytical mind helps to make collective choices for the betterment of the society. Aligning with the vision of the SLAAS, I as the General President have chosen the theme, *Effective Science Communication for an informed society* for the year 2022. I hope this theme will help us to embark on several initiatives to plant seeds for popularization of scientific thinking and practice.

Science communication to the general public and science education at primary and secondary level are closely linked. One of the key barriers in science education is to convey complex scientific concepts to the students in a coherent and readily understandable manner. Even though there are tools, educational videos available in the web-based platforms, most are in foreign languages and based on different contextual settings making inaccessible / unacceptable and non-coherent for majority of the student population as well as teacher community in our country. Tackling the lay public through mainstream and new media, as well as utilizing a concerted effort to support teacher community through the science education pathway will have a synergetic effect on scientific thinking for a better future in our country.

I believe SLAAS is the best platform to lead this endeavor in our country having the largest gathering of scientist of the highest caliber. A concerted effort through teamwork can influence the policy cycles to consider scientific evidence as the basis for decision making and the public to align their choices on scientific thinking. I invite all members of SLAAS to be ambassadors of effective communication to grantee a better future for our motherland.

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Special points of interest

- Frontiers in Chemistry Research
- Home-based organic fertilizer preparation
- AYUR “ඔසු දිවිය” programme



Prof. Manuj Weerasinghe
General President of SLAAS
Consultant Community Physician
Senior Professor
Faculty of Medicine
University of Colombo

Annual Sessions of SLAAS 2021

The 77th Annual Sessions of SLAAS was inaugurated on 6th December 2021 amidst a distinguished gathering and continued till 11th December at the BMICH Colombo. Prof. Kapila C. K. Perera, Secretary of the Ministry of Education served as the Chief Guest, Dr. Rohan Pallewatta, Executive Chairman, Lanka Harness Co. (Pvt) Ltd. served as the Guest of Honour for the occasion. The "Little Scientist" kit, conceptualized by Section E2 was launched.

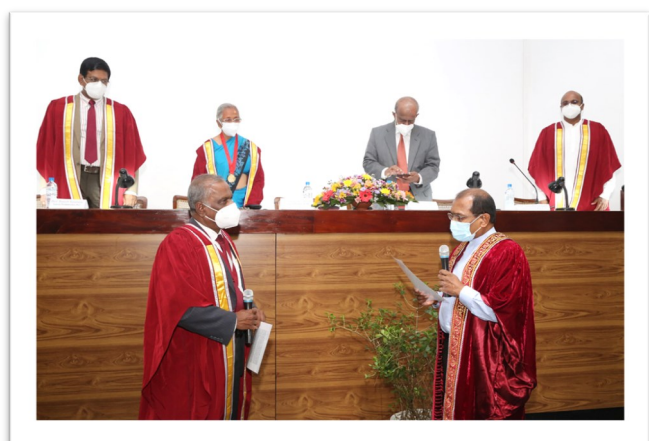


Council 2022

Name	Position	Name	Position
Prof. Manuj Weerasinghe	General President	Dr. M N Kaumal	Elected Member
Prof. Ranjith Senaratne	General President - Elect	Prof. Shiromi Karunaratne	Elected Member
Prof. Sumedha Jayanetti	Immediate Past General President	Prof. Chamari Hettiarachchi	Elected Member
Dr. A M Mubarak	Chairman, BOT	Dr. Lochandaka Ranathunga	Elected Member
Dr. N Karthikeyan	General Secretary	Dr. Kaumadi Karunagoda	President, Section A
Dr. Prasad Senadheera	General Secretary	Dr. (Mrs) R M N A Wijewardane	President, Section B
Prof. W A P J Premaratne	Treasurer	Dr. Nuwan Balasuriya	President, Section C
Dr. Dilrukshi Wijayarathna	Asst. Treasurer	Dr. K M G P Premadasa	President, Section D
Prof. Theshini Perera	Editor	Dr. Wasanthi P De Silva	President, Section E1
Dr. S M Vithanarachchi	Asst. Editor	Dr. Lahiru A Wijenayaka	President, Section E2
Prof. Mayuri Wijesinghe	Secretary, Int. Relations	Dr. Rasika Dayaratne	President, Section E3
Dr. R D Guneratne	Elected Member	Prof. Wasantha Rathnayake	President, Section F
Prof. K P S Chandana Jayaratne	Elected Member	Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa	Chairman, GRC
Prof. R D Wijesekera	Elected Member	Prof. R M Dharmadasa	Chairman, EC
Dr. R Chinthaka L De Silva	Elected Member	Dr. Jayangika Dahanayake	Chairperson, CPS
Prof. Jayantha Welihinda	Elected Member		

Induction of General President 2022

Professor Manuj Weerasinghe, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo was inducted as the 81st General President of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science at a homely ceremony held on 12th January 2022 at the Auditorium of SLAAS.



Section A

Workshops

A workshop on “E code” was conducted for all categories of staff of the Ministry of Health including medical officers on 28th January 2022 from 9 am to 4 pm with Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera as the resource person. Nearly 35 people participated and this activity was coordinated by Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera.

A series of workshops were carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Health; “Work Life Balance” on 2nd March 2022 from 9 am to 3 pm for 43 employees in the Ministry of Health with Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera as the resource person; “Workplace Productivity” on 24th March 2022 from 9 am to 4 pm for 80 employees in the Ministry of Health with Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera as the resource person; “Mental Disorders and Stress” on 18th March from 9 am to 12 noon for 50 employees in the Ministry of Health with Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera as the resource person; A technical guidance programme on 28th of February 2022 for 50 employees of the Ministry of Health from 9 am to 4 pm with Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera as the resource person; a workshop on “E code and Human Right” for 50 employees of the Ministry of Health on with Dr Navavi as the resource person on 3rd March from 9 am to 12 noon. This series of workshops were coordinated by Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera.

A workshop on career guidance and research development and mentoring was carried out for Community Medicine trainees in collaboration with the College of Community Physicians on 19th March 2022 with Dr. Yasaswi Walpita, Prof. Carukshi Arambepola and Dr. Himali Herath as resource persons. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Yasaswi Walpita.

A dairy technology promotion programme was conducted on 18th and 19th March from 8 am to 4 pm for dairy farmers in two veterinary ranges in the Jaffna district in collaboration with the dairy corporation with Dr Samantha Iddamaldeniya as the resource person. There were 30 participants present. This activity was coordinated by Dr Samantha Iddamaldeniya.

Field Activities

Facilities were provided to upgrade three school libraries and one public library in the Ratnapura district in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in March 2022. This was coordinated by Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera.

Webinars

An online programme on lifestyle modification and cancer reduction was conducted for insurance company workers on 26th January 2022 from 10 am to 1 pm with Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera as the resource person. There were 96 participants at this activity which was coordinated by Dr Thilina Wanigasekera.

A webinar on “Evidence Based Practice” was carried out for physiotherapists on 26th February 2022 with Prof. Gominda Ponnampeluma as the resource person. There were 30 participants present. This activity was coordinated by Ms. Cinthuja Pathmanathan.

A webinar was held for regional public health staff on food premises registration on 23rd February 2022 with Dr. Charith Hettiarachi as the resource person. There were 75 participants at this event which was coordinated by Dr. Yasaswi Walpita.

Medical Camps

A medical camp was conducted for disabled army personnel on 23rd March 2022 from 8 am to 4 pm in collaboration with the Institute of Indigenous Medicine. The resource persons were provided by the institute of Indigenous Medicine. There were 400 participants who participated in the camp. This activity was coordinated by Dr Kaumadi Karunagoda.

Newsletter

Two articles were submitted for the April issue of the Section A newsletter. The article on “ COVID-19 and Mental Wellbeing “ was written by Dr Yamuna Ellawala from the Directorate of Mental Health, of the Ministry of Health. An article was also submitted on “Highlights from the Scientific Brief – Mental Health and COVID 19 –World Health Organization.” This activity was coordinated by Dr Hemali Jayakody.

Quizzes and Competitions

Dr. Kaumadi Karunagoda was a panelist to evaluate an inter school quiz and reading competition as well as to evaluate the inter school essay and reading competition organized in collaboration with the Lions Club, Moratuwa, on 14th January 2022 at President's College, Maharagama. These activities were coordinated by Dr. Kaumadi Karunagoda.



Radio and TV Programmes

A live radio program on “Malvaraya” was conducted via the Sri Lanka Broadcasting corporation Suva Arana programme on the 6th January 2022 from 1.30–2.00 pm with Dr. Kaumadi Karunagoda as the resource person. This activity was coordinated by Dr. Kaumadi Karunagoda

A TV program was conducted on Jayamaga TV on 12th December 2021 on Ayurveda for Endometriosis with Dr.

Kaumadi Karunagoda as the resource person. Activity coordinator was Dr Kaumadi Karunagoda.

A radio programme was conducted on the topic “Diary Farming and Issues with Parasites” on the “Kandurata Sevaya” on 10th February 2022 from 10 am to 11 am specifically targeting diary farmers. This activity was coordinated by Dr Samantha Iddamaldeniya.

Section B

“The Future of Our Forests”, Inter-university Video Contest, 2022

An inter-university video competition has been organized by the SLAAS Section B with the collaboration of Environmental Committee. The program is coordinated by Dr. R.P. Wanigatunge and Dr. H.M. Herath in section B. The theme of this competition is “The future of our forests” and the objective of the program is to identify the current status of forest destruction in Sri Lanka, causes of destruction, impact and future, and present them as a creative video. The contest is open to all current undergraduates from state and non-state universities/higher education institutes in Sri Lanka.

Section C

Webinars

A webinar titled “A comprehensive review of telecommunication towers in civil engineering perspective” was conducted on 26th January 2022 by Dr. (Eng) Nadira Gunathilaka, Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, The Open University of Sri Lanka. The speaker of the webinar explained that the telecommunication industry itself contribute 0.7% of GDP to Sri Lankan economy according to the 2020 Central Bank annual report. A general discussion on tower construction and telecommunication industry in Sri Lanka was facilitated. A detailed discussion was provided on structural tower design, construction, operation and maintenance and most importantly on the social and environmental aspects in telecommunication tower design and construction. The webinar was followed by a question and answer session in which many participants actively participated. The event was organized by SLAAS- Section C.

Webinar 2

A webinar titled “Circularity in Built Environment” was conducted on 28th February 2022 by Prof. Shiromi Karunaratne, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology. The webinar emphasized the importance in reducing the volume of resources using, and drive down wastage and carbon emission. Furthermore, adaptation of circular economy model throughout the build cycle was elaborated upon. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session with the active participation of many. The event was jointly organized by SLAAS- Section C, Department of Mechanical Engineering, The Open university Sri Lanka, and EUSL-Energy Project.

Webinar 3

A webinar titled “How to conduct critical review of literature for impactful research” was conducted on 7th March 2022 by Prof. Bingunath Ingirige, Senior Professor, Urban Resilience and Adaptation of the Centre for Disaster Resilience, School of the Built Environment, University of Salford, UK. The webinar explained the purpose of conducting a literature review as well as its strategies, and how to avoid plagiarism. The differences between literature survey and literature review was explained briefly. The importance of critical thinking in conducting literature review was highlighted. The



lecture was followed by a question and answer session for which many participants actively participated. The event was jointly organized by SLAAS- Section C, SLAAS- General Research committee, and Library and publication committee of IESL.

Workshop 1

A workshop titled “Unpacking science for nonscientists by way of newsletter articles: are you ready?” was conducted at CERC seminar room, The Open University Sri Lanka, on 12th March 2022 which targeted professionals. The workshop was conducted by Eng. (Professor) Mahesh Jayaweera, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa. The workshop was delivered in different phases. First, the speaker explained on the importance of writing for the career development. Secondly, he emphasized on the need of sharing scientific knowledge with general public. Most importantly the strategies adopt in writing newsletter articles displaying several examples. The lecture was followed by a question and answer. The event was organized by SLAAS- Section C.

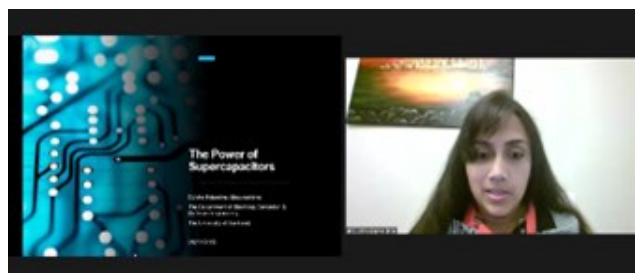


Section D

A workshop on “Proposal Writing” was held on 18th of February from 8:30 am to 1:00pm at Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (FAHS), General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) in Hybrid mode. One hundred and five undergraduates were participated for the workshop which was organized by internal Quality Assurance Cell of the FAHS, KDU in collaboration with the Section D and General Research Committee of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS). The interactive session on proposal writing was conducted by Prof. Chamari Hettiarchchi and Dr. M N Kaumal from the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo. Ms. Hiruni Kanchana, Senior Assistant Librarian of FAHS/KDU discussed the topic of reference managing and literature survey, while Dr. KDK Peshala Kumari, Senior lecture of the Department of Basic Sciences, FAHS/KDU provided the guidance how to apply for ethical clearance. The event was coordinated by Dr. KDK Peshala Kumari, a member of Section D committee, SLAAS.

Section E1

Webinars



A webinar on “Power of Supercapacitors and Postgraduate Opportunities in New Zealand” was held on 20th January 2022 at 6:00 pm with the participation of more than 50 participants. The resource person was Dr. Dulsha Kularatna Abeywardana from the Department of Electrical, Computer and Software Engineering, University of Auckland. The webinar was jointly organized by SLAAS Section E1 and the Physics Society, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The

webinar was coordinated by Dr. W.Wasanthi P De Silva.

Dr. Chinthaka De Silva, Senior Research Scientist, ITI gave a guest talk on “Nanotechnology and Applications” at an event organized by the Science Society of Sri Sumangala College, Panadura on 14th January 2022.

An online panel discussion aimed at job-oriented graduates for the private sector in machine learning and Data Science was held on 27th February at 8:00 pm with Dr. Udara Abesekera from 3M Health Informatics System, University of Utah, USA, Eng. Vipula Liyanaarachchi, General Manager, Zone24X7 (Pvt) Ltd and Dr. Upali Kohomba, Head of Research CodeGen International (Pvt) Ltd as panel members. This webinar mainly focused on conveying the message that physical science stu-

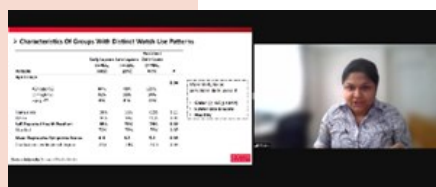


dents are well suited

for private industries. The panel discussion was moderated and organized by Dr. Janaka Adassuriya.



A general overview of Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board was presented to the general public via an online platform on 3rd March at 12:00 pm by resource person Mrs. Uththara Perera, Scientific Officer, Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board. This webinar was organized by Dr. Wasanthi P. De Silva in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board and the Physics Society University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



A guest talk on “Mobile Health and Digital Technologies for Cardiovascular Disease Data Collection: Insights from Electronic Framingham Heart Study” was held on 10th March 2022 at 7:00 pm with Dr. Chathurangi H. Pathiravasan, Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Biostatistics, Boston University School of Public Health as the resource person. The event was organized by SLAAS Section E1 in collaboration with the Statistics Society, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

E-paper Articles

Three online articles authored by Dr. Chinthaka De Silva, Senior Research Scientist, ITI on “ITI’s future prospects with Advanced CCD Optical Emission Spectrometer (<https://scientist.lk/2022/01/19/itis-future-prospects-with-advanced-ccd-optical-emission-spectrometer/>), “තාප ප්‍රේරණය තාක්ෂණයේ අද කාලයේ ගෘහස්ථ යෙදවුම” (<https://newswave.lk/24370/>) and “ඔබේ වාහනයේ බැටරිය ගැන ඔබ දැන ගත යුතු දේ” (<https://newswave.lk/26217/>).

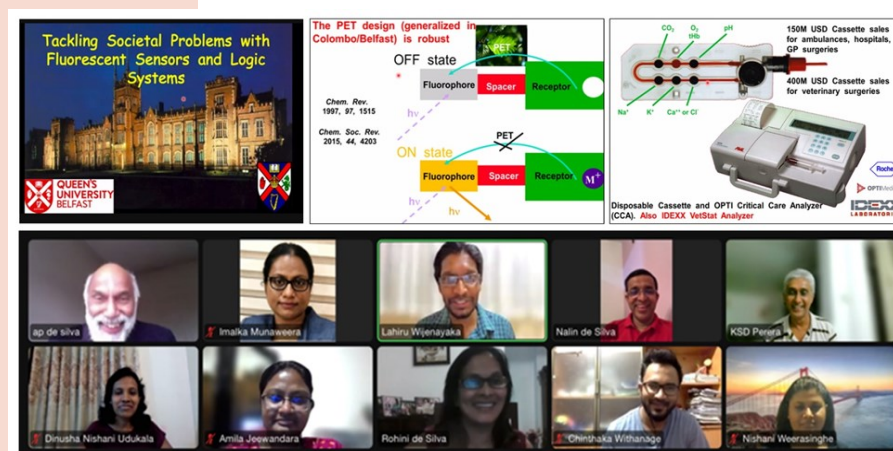
Television and Radio Programmes

Eng. Gihan Weerasekara, Mathematics and Engineering Lecturer at National Institute of Business Management participated in a radio programme “Vidu Asin” in Lakhanda radio channel on 3rd and 10th March 2022. The programme discussed recent developments in Astronomy.

Section E2

'Sri Lankan Chemists in Focus'

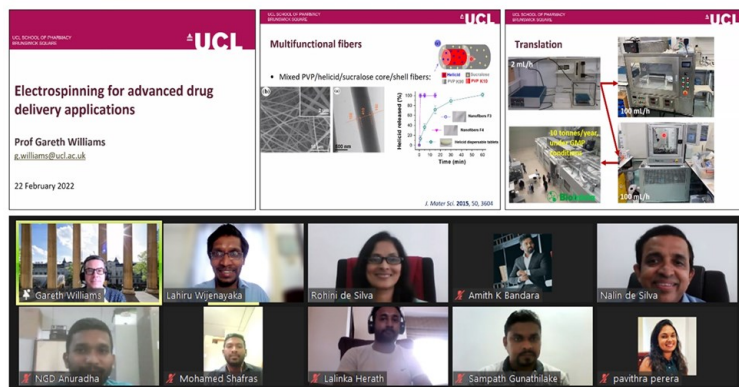
This series of bimonthly webinars was organized to showcase the achievements of Sri Lankan chemists in the context of scientific research at the international level, in light of aspiring the future chemists of Sri Lanka. The first webinar of the series was conducted by Professor A. P. de Silva from the Queen's University Belfast, UK, on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022, at 7:00 pm *via* ZOOM. Professor A. P. de Silva presented on the topic ‘Tackling Societal Problems with Fluorescent Sensors and Logic Systems’ where he discussed about the fluorescence photo induced electron transfer sensing/switching principle and systems, experimental field of molecular logics, and its real-life applications. Professor de Silva’s presentation was very informative, and he discussed many applications related to advancements and applications of technology in the field of molecular logics. The webinar was a successful event where the participants gathered an in-depth knowledge of the applications in fluorescence photoinduced electron transfer sensing/switching and molecular logic. The activity was organized and coordinated by Dr. Lahiru Wijenayaka, Dr. Dinusha Udukala, and Dr. Amila Jee-



wandara. The second webinar of this series titled ‘Novel Chemical Biology Technologies to Expedite the Drug-lead Discovery Process’ will be conducted by Professor Gomika Udugamasooriya from the University of Houston and MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA and is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 23rd March 2022.

'Frontiers in Chemistry Research'

This series of webinars was organized in enhancing the awareness of contemporary cutting-edge research in chemistry conducted by world class leading chemists. The first webinar of the series was conducted by Professor Gareth R. Williams, Professor of pharmaceutical materials science, UCL School of Pharmacy, University College London, UK on Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022 at 2:00 pm via ZOOM. Professor Williams presented on the topic 'Electrospinning for Advanced Drug Delivery Applications' where he explained why electrospinning has emerged as an effective technology in the context of drug delivery out of a wide spectrum of techniques. Improvement of drug potency through the optimization of intrinsic molecular properties with the aim of achieving targeted drug delivery is of utmost importance to the pharmaceutical industry. Professor Williams elaborated that the electrospun formulations have great potential to overcome the solubility challenges faced by >70% of emerging drug delivery platforms based on their research findings. Overall, the participants gained an understanding of the applications of electrospinning and electrospun fiber mats in drug delivery. The activity was organized and coordinated by Prof. Rohini de Silva and Dr. Gayathri Silva. The second webinar of this series titled 'Discovery and Characterization of a Multifunctional Enzyme that Promotes tRNA Aminoacylation' will be conducted by Professor Tamara Hendrickson from the Wayne State University, USA and is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 15th March 2022.



day, 15th March 2022.

Workshop on Continuous Professional Development for Academics in Higher Education

Section E2 of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) organized a full-day workshop on Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Academics in Higher Education on Tuesday, 1st March 2022, at the SLAAS Auditorium. The event was open to

current and aspiring academics at all levels across various higher educational institutions in Sri Lanka. It was organized with the perspective of creating a platform to bring together earlier to mid-career academics to enhance their awareness on topics of significance for continuous professional development within academia, alongside promoting networking and collaborations among academics of our country. An eminent panel of resource personnel covered different areas of specific importance for the professional development of academics. A session on career progression in academia was conducted by Prof. Rohan Fernando of the Open University of Sri Lanka and importance of ethics in the academic setting was presented by Prof. Kapila Seneviratne of the University of Kelaniya. Budget planning and funding opportunities for research were discussed by Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura while a session on publication and commercialization of scientific research was conducted by Prof. Nilwala Kottegoda of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. A session on academic leaderships was facilitated by Prof. Sudantha Liyanage, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and finally, a session on how to conduct meetings in professional organizations was delivered by Dr. R.D.Guneratne of the University of Colombo (retired). The event was organized by Dr. Lahiru Wijenayaka, Dr. Thelma Abeysinghe, Dr. Asitha Cooray, and Dr. Amila Jeewandara with other Section E2 committee members. General Research Committee (GRC) of SLAAS collaborated in organizing the workshop and the event was sponsored by Analytical Instruments (Pvt) Ltd and Ceyflex Rubber Limited. The workshop was conducted adhering to health guide-

lines and with the participation of academics from various public as well as private higher educational institutes in Sri Lanka while the sessions lined up within the workshop provided the participants an insight towards crafting the pathway to excelling in academia.



Section F

An interactive session with fishing community in Kalpitiya was conducted by Prof. Wasantha Rathnayake with the support of Ocean University of Sri Lanka. The local fishing community's training needs were identified and officials of the Ocean University was directed to conduct a two day training workshop on engine repairing.

An article by Prof. Wasantha Rathnayake on "Should we promote recreational activities for conservation of Thalangama Wetland?" was

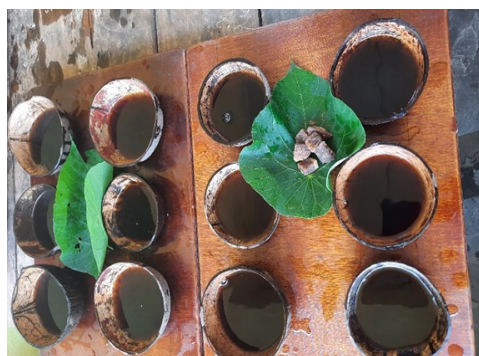


published on the Sunday Observer and the article can be found at <http://www.observereducation.lk/2022/02/15/should-we-promote-recreational-activities-for-conservation-of-thalangama-wetland/>.



Dr. Dilanthi Koralagama conducted an awareness programme on "Home-based Organic Fertilizer Preparation" on 4th of February at Madelgamuwa temple premises in Gampaha District. This activity was organized by Dr Dilanthi Koralagama, Vice President of SLAAS Section F; Country representative of Young Professionals for Agriculture Research Development (YPARD – FAO) in collaboration with Kehelbaddara SANASA Association and Madelgamuwa Youth Society. Mr S M Peramunugama, Additional Director, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka was invited as the resource person who conducted

the session with practical training from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Home-based compost manure production with kitchen waste and liquid fertilizer production with cow dung were demonstrated at the session. A barrel to produce liquid organic fertilizer was distributed among the participants. There were 35 participants from two CBOs. The programme was fully funded by YPARD Sri Lanka.



General Research Committee



Prof Chamari Hettiarachchi



Dr M N Kaumal

The first activity of GRC for 2022, "A Guided Workshop on Selection of Research Title and Proposal Writing" was conducted in collaboration with section D via a virtual platform. The workshop was organized and coordinated by Prof. Chamari Hettiarachchi and Dr M N Kaumal and was held on 18th February 2022 from 9.00 a.m to 12.00 noon. Prof Chamari Hettiarachchi and Dr M N Kaumal served as resource persons for this guided workshop of ninety-five participants.



A workshop was conducted on 27th February 2022 titled "Safety First" regarding the import of uncertain (risky) biological material to Sri Lanka on a virtual platform. The resource person was Emeritus Professor A.L.T. Perera of the University of Peradeniya. The event was well attended with 35 participants and was coordinated by Dr Buddhika Aruggoda in collaboration with Section B.

The third activity, a workshop on "Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme for Early Career Scademics" in collaboration with Section E2, coordinated on behalf of the GRC by Dr Dusantha Alwis, was held on 1st March 2022. This event was well attended with nearly 50 participants and was organized by Section E2 in collaboration with GRC.



The fourth activity of GRC, a webinar on "How to Conduct a Critical Review for Impactful Research" for undergraduate and postgraduate students of engineering was conducted on 7th March 2022. The resource person was Prof. Bingunath Ingirige, Salford University, UK. The event was well attended with 68 participants and was coordinated by Prof Udeni Nawagamuwa in collaboration with Section C.



A workshop was conducted on 17th March 2022 titled "Effective use of Statistics in Research" for undergraduate and postgraduate student *via* an online platform. The resource person of the workshop was Dr. Rushan Abeygunawardana and the online logistics were coordinated by Dr. M.N. Kaumal.

Environment Committee

AYUR "ඔසු දිවිය" Programme

AYUR "ඔසු දිවිය" programme is a continuation and an extension of the establishment of Ayurveda/ medicinal garden/home garden which was initiated in 2021. Preparation of plantlets was started at the plant nursery of the Institute of Indigenous Medicine, Rajagiriya in February 2022. Furthermore, AYUR "ඔසු දිවිය" project was initiated at the premises of the National Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Borella in March 2022.

An event was organized to provide guidance and donations of medicinal plants for the establishment of Ayurveda/ medicinal garden/home garden projects ("නාගරික ඔසු උයන් ව්‍යාපෘතිය") conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Central Environmental Authority. The medicinal plants were provided by the Unit of Dravyaguna Vignana, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, Rajagiriya. This event was coordinated by Dr. Himalee De Silva, Dr. Jeevani and Dr. Swarna Hapuarachchi, in collaboration with SLAAS Environmental Committee and Dravyaguna Vignana Unit, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, Rajagiriya.



Committee for the Popularization of Science

Programs for Target Groups

The Committee for the Popularization of Science is organizing programs for various target groups this year. Under this category, an article on “Has the COVID-19 pandemic leveraged an improved air quality (PM_{2.5}) in Colombo?” has been submitted by Prof Mahesh Jayaweera to digital SLEN of Institute of Engineers.



Programs for Enhancement of Knowledge of the General Public

The Committee for the Popularization of Science has organized several programs with the purpose of enhancing knowledge of the general public. Dr. Gaya Jayakody participated as the resource person at TV program “Empowered” at “Derana 24” on how to teach mathematics procedurally and conceptually. The program can be accessed via the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EusbnagOVy8>

International Digital Story Writing Competition

Keynote speeches:

Dr. Samuel A. W. Chu, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Hong Kong

Dr. P. J. Fernando, Retired Senior Lecturer, National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILS), University of Colombo

Parents and Teachers, Librarians...

International Webinar on Developing Effective Digital Citizens with Empathy, Creativity, and Scientific Inquiry

15th March 2022 7:30 pm LK time (GMT+5:30)

Join FREE of charge

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://hkuspace.zoom.us/j/97056430320>
Meeting ID: 970 5643 0320

Childrens' digital story competition still on...

For detailed program visit: <https://nils.cmb.lk/home/news/2022/march/webinar/2022/>

Organized by the South Asia Chapter of the Association for Information Science and Technology

ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL STORY WRITING COMPETITION (REGISTRATION OPEN TILL 04.04.2022)

The South Asia Chapter of the Association for Information Science and Technology together with the University of Hong-Kong, Sri Lanka Library Association, National Institute of Library and Information Systems, University of Colombo and SLAAS is organizing an international digital story writing competition for school children. A promotional seminar titled “International Webinar on Developing Effective Digital Citizens with Empathy, Creativity, and Scientific Inquiry” was held on 15th March 2022 at 19:30 IST for teachers, parents and librarians. Dr. Jayangika Dahanayake, Chair/ CPS 2022 delivered a speech titled “Role of Scientists in Developing Effective Digital Citizens” at this webinar.



Little Scientists



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

Selling price Rs 6500/=

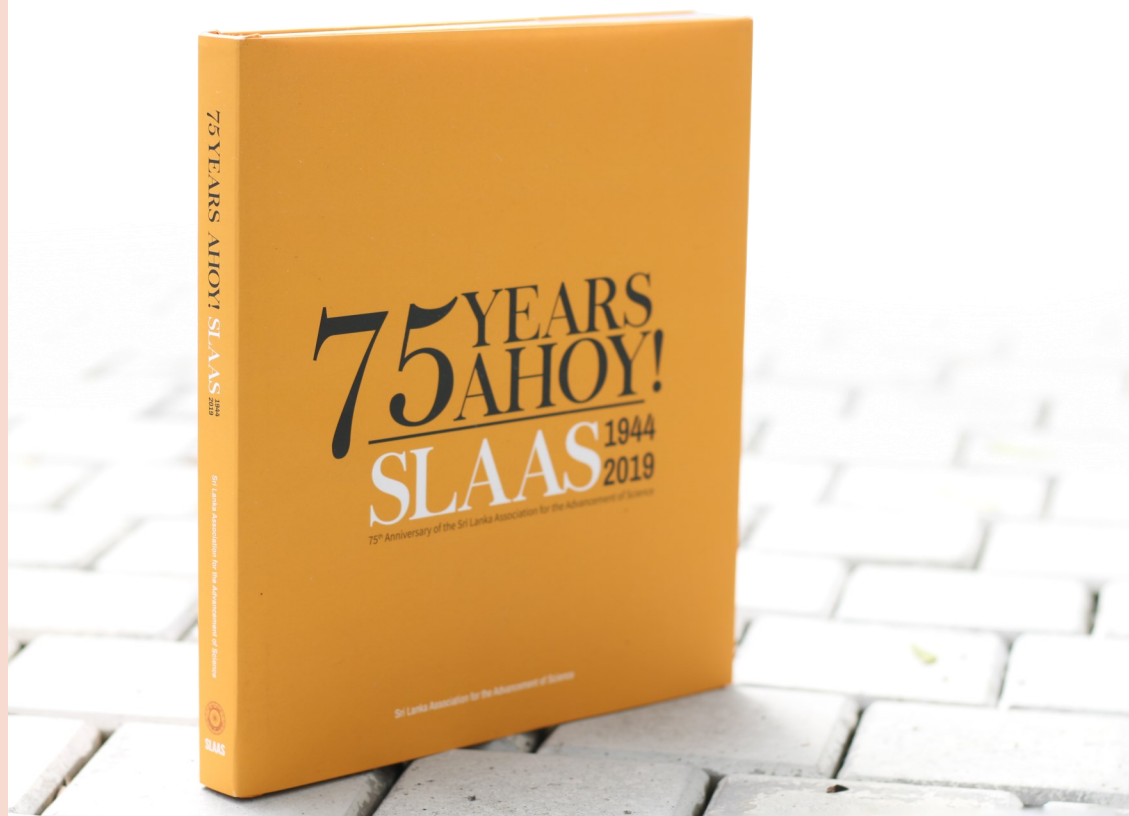
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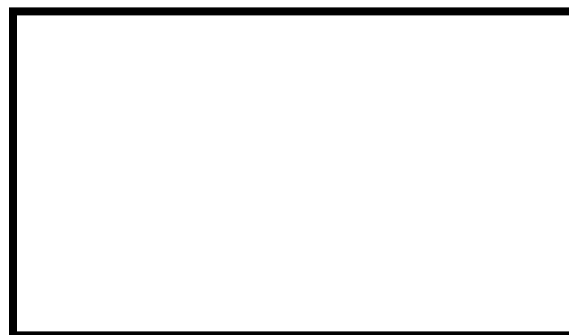
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A heartfelt effort to trace 75 years of history of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, from its origins to the present, in the form of a coffee table book, available for purchase at the SLAAS office.



to



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