

GEOGRAPHY

Newsletter2019

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UOR



The Annual compilation of information on the academic and professional activities of the staff and students of the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna.

Message from Head of the Department: Senior Professor P. Hewage....



Foremost I am happy to add this message to fourth issue of geography newsletter which covering academic and professional information of the department year 2019. From inception before 40 years the department made over 3000 graduates allowing having a more structured specialization in Human and social Geography, Environment and Physical Geography as well as Geo-informatics. As one of major geography departments within national university system in Sri Lanka we basically function under four teaching and research clusters as population and health geography, land use, urban planning and geo-informatics, geomorphology, climate change and disasters, environment management and protection. With emphasizing the demand from various graduates and other related professionals already we have planned to offer two new postgraduate degree programmes as Master of development planning, Master of GIS. And also, a new B.Sc degree programme of Geographic information system will be introduced in near future focusing the highlights of subject benchmark revisions which were emphasized by Geography experts in national and international context. Extension of the MOU between university of Sinas, Malaysia and department was key milestone of the year. We welcome our new permanent academic member **Mrs. Wasna Franando** after getting experiences as a temporary lecturer in same department. And also, our two academic members as **Dr R.A.S.P Ranabahu** and **Dr.P.A Amarweera** have earned their PhDs in population geography and disaster management with increasing teaching and research strength of the department. At Later part of the year **Ramon Boges Mendez**, distinguished professor from Clark university USA and professor. **Etienne Piguet** from institute of geography, universite de Neuchatel, Switzerland honored to shared their experiences with our colleagues.

In addition to our department website, this newsletter is one of the means to provide department news and information to our alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the public at large.

Message from the editor: Mr W.K.N.C. Withanage....



In this edition of the newsletter, I am pleased to introduce our new PhD holders for academic community. It's been wonderful to say good bye to recent graduates of the department. Field excursions evidences provide a good way for current students to understand the research possibilities and potentials of the department. Please keep in touch with us, including with any suggestions and comments you may have. At last, I am forever grateful to say **"THANKS"** all academic and supportive staff because I couldn't do this task without your kind guidance and support.

Official visits of distinguished professors from foreign universities...



Ramon Boges Mendez, Associate professor of community development and planning, Clark university, USA carried out a discussion with the department members to seeking possibilities of collaborative research arenas in land use and community planning especially in southern dry zone Sri Lanka through his visit of the department on 27.06.2019. He especially tries to understand the similarities of post colonial development in Puerto Rico and Sri Lanka. Professor Remon is very interesting on the reconstruction of coffee industry in Puerto Rico. In 2018 he actively engaged with one case study in coffee industry resilience with an eye toward giving women a larger role in the supply chain this project was supported by the faculty fund, Clark University. Here Remon and his other research colleague professor. Cynthia Caron interviewed people from all aspects of the coffee-production chain: owners, producers, farmers, workers, roasters, and shop owners.

Professor **Etienne piguet**, Institute of geography, universite de Neuchatel, of Switzerland visited the department on invitation of department academia on 29.11.2019 and delivered a guest lecture on “**Environmental change and migration: A worldwide challenge**” at department auditorium. It was a fruitful discussion regarding climate resilience and other geographical challenges in post disaster Sri Lanka. Professor Etienne is one of major researchers on climate change and forced migration, population and demographic studies, social demography in Switzerland. In a latest research paper on “**Human migration in the era of climate change**” he tries to review recent literature across various disciplines on the effects of climate change on migration. And also here he explore key features of the relationship between climate change and migration, distinguishing between fast-onset and slow-onset climate events and examining the causes of heterogeneity in migratory responses to climate events.



Memorandum of Understanding with University Sains, Malaysia...

30th October, is a key date of the departmental academic progress of the year 2019 since department extended the exiting MOU between University Sains, Malaysia (USM). Deputy Vice Chancellor(Academic and International) **Professor A.M. Mohd Sadullah**, Dean of the school of humanities **Professor. Narimah Samat** , and senior professor **P. Hewage** officially signed the MOU with presence other academic members of both university. In 2019 USM maintained the QS world ranking at 207 and 2020 it has upgraded to 165. The School of Humanities at USM is one of the oldest humanities faculties in Malaysia which established over 40 years ago and the School prides itself as the centre for the humanities, a broad academic area that covers a wide spectrum of disciplines that include philosophy, religion, language, literature, translation, history, geography, and civilization. Through the MOU both department may exchange students and academic affairs in collaborative manner.



Disseminate research findings at University Sains, Malaysia...

Several staff members including senior professor P. Hewage (HOD) were attended to share their research findings with academia of other universities and related professionals over the world at 2nd postgraduate international conference on Humanities, PG student club, School of Humanities, USM, 30 & 31 October. In the conference the key note address was delivered by senior professor P. Hewage on invitation of USM. At the conference senior members of the department including professor P. Hewage, Dr.G. Edirisinghe, Dr.S. Wijeratne, Dr. W.K.V. Dayalatha, Dr. G.P.T.S Hemakumara presented their findings on different research areas as tourism development, population and coast conservation, disaster management and climate change and human response. In their paper **“Tourism Development potential in Sri Lanka: opportunities and Challenges”** Professor Hewage and J.A.D.I Dharmasena examined the tourism potentials and constraints in one of disadvantageous area in Sri Lankan dry zone. Dr. wijerathna and Dr. Edirisinghe elaborated the Changes of Tsunami Risk on Beach Areas of southern Sri Lanka with highlighting the in their research paper titled **Determination of the Changes of Tsunami Risk on Beach Areas of Sri**

Lanka. In same conference Dr. Hemakumara tries to give overall picture in climate change and human response in Lanka through his paper *Overview of Current Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Mechanism and Practice In Sri Lanka*. In the paper Mrs. Dayalatha tried to examine economic backwardness of coastal fishing Families who are living in Southern Sri Lanka. Mr.Senarath and Dr. Hemakumara analyze the Farmers' satisfaction regarding the Deduru Oya multi purposed development Project in their paper presented at USM.



Welcome Mrs Wasana Frenando to Ruhuna Geography family...



Mrs. P. W. S. Fernando was joined as Lecturer (porb) in Geography with effect from 20.04.2019 increasing physical and environmental Geography strength of the department since, she is having teaching and research interest on environment management and climate change. Before join as permanent member she was gained academic experience as temporary member at same department during 30.11.2016-29.10.2018. she has earned her bachelor's in same department and Masters from Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS), Peradeniya. All department members warmly welcome her to one of prestigious Geography department in Sri Lanka.

New PhDs and Masters...



DR. P. Amaraweera was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by university of Ruhuna based upon his research in Climate Change and Disaster with effect from 01 July 2017. The title of his thesis was "*Climate Change and Natural Disaster Risks: Case studies in Hambantota, Ratnapura and Nuwara Eliya Districts in Sri Lanka*". All department members wish for his future academic career.

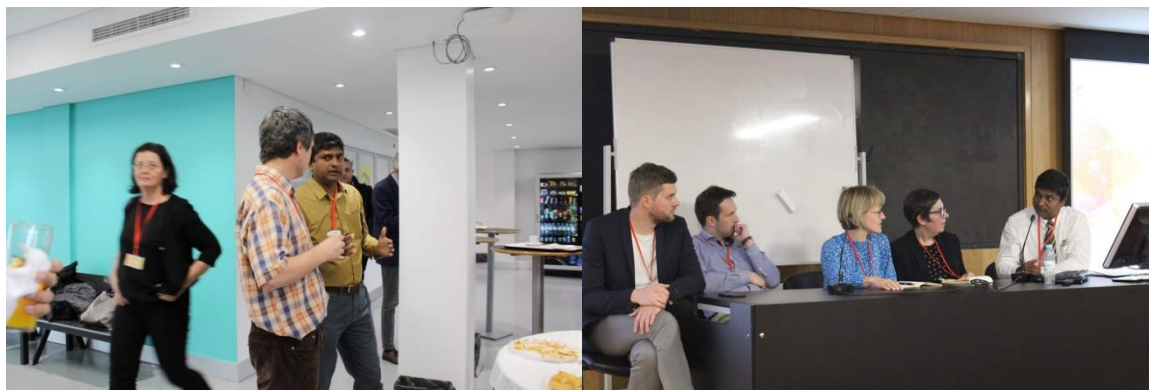


Dr (Mrs). Ranabahu was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, by University of Ruhuna with effect from 01 April 2017 for her research in border geographic field called population geography which was carried out under the title *“A Spatial Analysis of Active ageing in Sri Lanka.”* Department wish for her future academic endeavor both teaching and research.

Mrs. Wasana Franando was awarded Master of Arts Degree by Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and social sciences (PGIHSS), University of peradeniya with effect from 09.12.2018. In this journey different thought courses including climate change and human responses, Environment management, research techniques has been followed by her from well known Sri Lankan climatologist and environmental geographer as professor. Rekha Nianthi and Associate professor.T.M.T.W. Bandara. All staff members of the department wish for her future endeavor.

Sharing academic experiences at Institute of Geography, University of Lisbon, Portugal....

Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara has visited the institute of Geography, university of Lisbon, Portugal as two week study tour on April 2019. During his visit, he has presented research paper and also served as session discussant at 4th International Conference on Urban E-Planning. Meanwhile, several collaborative activities have been initiated with Institute of Geography such as publications and invited talk. As extension of this work, Dr, Hemakumara has participated invited talk via Skype; on (1-2 Oct. 2019) CSS 2019 Young Researchers , Researching the Digital City, Academic Track for Young Researchers within the CS Summit 2019, Hamburg City University, Germany.



Participation for XXV IUFRO World Congress 2019, Curitiba, Brazil...

Mr.M.S.M.L. Karunaratne was participated for the XXV IUFRO World Congress, held at the Expo Unimed Convention Center, Curitiba, Brazil from September 29 to October 5 2019 with an presentation entitled "**Challenges and potentials of ecotourism practices: A case study of Sinharaja rainforest in Sri Lanka**". His abstract of the technical session was published as special Issue of the Journal of Forestry Research, v. 39, e201902043, 2109, ISSN 1809.



Mr. M.S.M.L. Karunarthne Promoted to senior Lecturer Grade-II ...

Mr. Karunarthne, one of environmental Geographers of the department has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade-II with effect from 15.08.2018. He joined permanent academic staff as a lecturer (prob) after getting teaching experience as a temporary member of the same department. He earned M.Sc and M.SSc from university of Agder, Norway and university of Kelaniya respectively. Nowadays, he has actively engaged with environmental conservation movements especially social awareness on bio diversity conservation and protection through social media and other ways. Department wish him for future endeavor.

Senior professor P. Hewage served as a visiting academic....

HOD, Senior professor P. Hewage hosted as a visiting academic at school of environment, science and engineering, Southern Cross University, Australia from 20.03.2019 to 20.05.2019. During his stay in the said school he tried to build teaching and research collaboration between both institutes.



Field experiences for the undergraduates

As a spatial science geography essentially integrated with the geographical phenomenon at the field. Thus, to enhancing research capabilities and border geographical thinking abilities among the undergraduates several field excursions have been carried out in different part of the country to visit various geographical facts and phenomenon in the year 2019.



Undergraduate students of the Research Methods in Geography (GEO 21683) were engaged with a field excursion to obtaining a practical understand the use of research methods in physical geographical studies at the field Dr. Franndo and Dr. Wijerathne were accompanied the team.



Two day field visit at Nuwaraeliya was held for GEO 42613 (Global climate change) on 19th and 20th December, 2019. During their visit final undergraduates examined climate change and environmental Geography related facts with Dr. Amaraweera, Mr. Karunarathne and Mrs. Wasana.



Final year undergraduates engaged with a field excursion for GEO 41635 (Transport and development) from Matara to Mattala Airport. During this survey they tried to investigate how transportation link with regional disparities. Mattala airport, Hambantota port and Matara-Beliatta railway extension were study destinations of their visit. Dr. Edirisinghe, Mr. Neel and Mrs. Wasana accompanied the team.



Dr. wijerathna and his third year undergraduates team carried out the field survey on GEO 31613 (Geographical profile of Sri Lanka). Batadomba lena, kukule hydropower station were main study locations during this field excursion.



Dr. Chaminda Kumara and his third year team of GEO 31613 (Tourism management) were carried out the field visit on Patna Deniyaya to examine the potentials of community based tourism of said area as well as fruitfulness of the questionnaire surveys when collecting field based geographical information especially as social scientists.



Field visit from Matara to Rajagala Thanna, Ampara was conducted to study the diversity of Population and Regional Development in eastern region of the country. This two day field excursion was conducted by Prof. Rathnayake, Dr. Edirisinghe, Mrs. Dayalatha, Mr. Neel and Ms. Wasana.

NDIS one day workshop on Disaster Risk and Future Challenges

One day workshop on **Disaster Risk and Future Challenges** in Sri Lanka has been conducted by Natural Disaster Information Centre, University of Ruhuna, 09th January 2019 in collaboration with DMC and other interested parties including geography and other undergraduates of the faculty. Left. Cornel Dampath was key resource person of the workshop.



Farewell functions for Geography special grandaunts

The farewell function for the Special Degree grandaunts was held at university Guest House, University of Ruhuna on 16th of July 2019. On invitation of the academic staff 62 grandaunts took part with this memorable event.



Contribution from Academic staff

Senior professor p. Hewage....

- **Visiting Lecturer**, Department of Geography for the 2nd semester of the Academic Year 2017/2018, University of Kelaniya.
- **Organizing Committee Member**, 2nd International Symposium on Social Sciences & Humanities (ISSSH), National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS) –12th - 13th December 2019, Colombo.

Dr. S.L.J. Frenando

- **Chair**, Accommodation, Transportation and Logistic Committee of Ruhuna University International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences – 2019 (RUICHSS 2019) 26thSeptember 2019, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.
- **Member, Scholarship Committee**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.
- **Reviewer**, International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences – 2019 (RUICHSS 2019), 26thSeptember 2019, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.
- **Reviewer**, 17th Academic Sessions and 16th VC Awards – 2020, 04thMarch 2020, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.
- **Reviewer**, Ruhuna Arts Students' Annual Sessions 2019 (RASAS 2019), 27thSeptember 2019, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.
- **Discussant**, Ruhuna University International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences – 2019 (RUICHSS 2019), 26thSeptember 2020, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.
- **Resource person**, An awareness program and a soil lab demonstration for the for the A/L students from Perawella National School, Welimada, Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna ,12th December 2019.

Dr. S. Wijerathna....

- **Post of Course Coordinator**-B.A. External Degree Programme in Distance and Continuing Education Unit, University of Ruhuna,(from December 2019.01.19 to date-one year).
- **Vice President**- Sri Lankan Association of Geographers ,2019
- **Executive Editor**-Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review (JSSHR), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna University of Ruhuna, (Vol 4, Issue 1,2 and 3) 2019.

Mrs. W.K.V. Dayalatha....

- **Committee member**, Curriculum Development, Faculty of Humanities and social science, university of Ruhuna .2019
- **Chief Examiner**, G. C. E. (A/L) Examination (Geography) – 2019
- **Session discussant**, Ruhuna Arts Students’ Annual Session (RASAS), 2019

Dr. P. Amaraweera....

- **Member of the Organizing Committee**, TOR for the BA General Degree program
- **Chairman**, Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) for ELTA-ELSE Development Project, University of Ruhuna.
- **Committee member**, Publicity Committee 4thRuhuna Arts Students’ Annual Sessions (RASAS) -2019

Dr. R.A.S.P Ranabahu....

- **Key note speaker**, “Violence against Women and Girls in Sri Lanka” delivered at the District Symposium on Empowering Communities to address Violence against Women and Girls organized by the Foundation for Innovative Social Development and British Council Sri Lanka on 19 September 2019 at Walasmulla, Hambantota

Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara....

- **Council Member** ,2019/2020 sessions ,Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka,elected on its 37th Annual General Meeting Held on 29th March 2019 at the Club Hotel Dolphin, Waikkala, Negombo.
- **Member**, Curriculum Development Committee, Faculty of HSS
- **Member**, SER writing team, Institutional Review Programme, University of Ruhuna, Chapter 3 - Teaching and Learning, Chapter 9-Distance Education and Chapter 10-Quality Assurance.
- **Member**, Internal Review Panel for the Programme Review , Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna.
- **Activity Coordinator**, AHEAD Project, Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna
- **Activity Coordinator**, AHEAD Project, Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna
- **Organizing Committee Member**,2nd International Symposium on Social Sciences & Humanities (ISSSH), National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS) –12th - 13th December 2019, Colombo.
- **Member, Panel of Judges**, 12th International Research Conference, 11th and 12th September 2019 at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka.
- **Reviewer**, Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review, 2019 (4), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna

Dr. H.I.G.C Kumara....

- **Committee member**, Fund Utilize Committee, Distance and Continues Education Unite, University of Ruhuna
- **Report supervisor**, field work study tour of students from the Agder University, Norway, 2020
- **Committee member**, institutional review chapter committee2019/2020, University of Ruhuna
- **Second examiner**,[THM 3243, THM 3183] B.sc special degree, year iii, semester ii examination 2019, Faculty of Management Studies , University of Rajarata , Mihintale
- **External Committee Member**, QUIZ MASTER- Win 50000 quiz program 2019 organized by Botanical Society, Department of Botany, University of Ruhuna
- **Committee Member**,Promoting Humanities and Social Sciences Research, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna from 03.05.2019 to date
- **Reviewer**, Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review, 2019 (5)1, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna
- **Reviewer**, Journal of Management Matter, 2019, (6)1, Faculty of Management studies, University of Rajarata, Sri Lanka
- **Reviewer**, 8th International Conference on Management and Economics 2019, University of Ruhuna
- **Reviewer** PRATHIMANA vol.12 (2019) Peer Reviewed Academic Journal, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna
- **Reviewer**, RASAS 2019, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna
- **Reviewer**, 16th Academic Sessions 2019, University of Ruhuna

Mr. M.S.M.L. Karunaratna....

- **Student counselor**, Faculty of Humanities and Social sciences
- **Representative** ,LMS committee, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- **The coordinator**, Soft skills development programme, department of geography
- **The coordinator** ,internship programme , Department of Geography
- **Reviewer**, RASAS-2019, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna

Mr. W.K.N.C. Withanage....

- **Ex- committee member**, Sri Lanka Association of Geographers (SLAG),2019
- **Co- sectary**, Ruhuna Annual Student Session,2019,University of Ruhuna.
- **Reviewer**, RASAS 2019, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.
- **Faculty Deputy coordinator** ,Technology Transfer Cell(TTC),university of Ruhuna

Mrs. P. W.S. Fernando....

- **Student Counselor**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna
- **Rapporter**, Ruhuna University International Conference(RUICHSS),2019

Publications on International conferences

- Hewage. P, Dharmasena. J.A.D.I.(2019).**Tourism Development potential in Sri Lanka: opportunities and Challenges**. The 2nd postgraduate international conference on Humanities, PG student club, School of Humanities, University Sains Malaysia, 30 & 31 October 2019
- Wijeratne,S. Edirisinghe,G. (2019). **Determination of the Changes of Tsunami Risk on Beach Areas of Sri Lanka**. The 2nd Postgraduate International Conference on Humanities (ICH 2019), School of Humanities, University Sains Malaysia,30 & 31 October 2019
- Dayalatha W.K.V. & Hemanthika H. K. K. D. .(2019). **A study of Landslide Risk and Appeared Problems in Dosar Hill Area in Kakanadura South Grama Niladhari Division**, 2nd International Symposium on Social Sciences & Humanities (ISSSH) 2019- 12-13 December 2019.
- Dayalatha.W.K.V.(2019). **Coastal fishing Families are living with low socio-economic status in Southern Sri Lanka**, The 2nd Postgraduate International Conference on Humanities, University Sains Malaysia on 30 & 31 October 2019
- Hemakumara, G.P.T.S.(2019) **Overview of Current Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Mechanism and Practice In Sri Lanka** , The 2nd Postgraduate International Conference on Humanities, University Sains Malaysia on 30 & 31 October 2019
- Senarath. G., Hemakumara, G.P.T.S (2019). **Farmer Satisfaction Survey for the DeduruOya Multi Purposed Development Project in Sri Lanka**, The 2nd Postgraduate International Conference on Humanities, University Sains Malaysia on 30 & 31 October 2019
- Hemakumara, G.P.T.S, & Rainis, Ruslan. (2019). **Geo-Spatial Model Validation in The Context of Low-Land Conversion Due to Households Emerging in The Colombo Sub-Urban**,7th International conference,ICCPP-2019, Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa
- Hemakumara,G.P.T.S,Hewage.P,SamudrikaS.,SugathapalaK, Munasinghe D, Kumarasiri C, & Aththanayaka A.M.N.D.(2019). **Field Verifications of the ARC GIS based Automation Landform Model including the Recommendations to Enhance the Automation System with Ground Reality**, 10th Annual research Symposium of NBRO on 17th and 18th , December,2019
- Kumara H.I.G.C.& Samarawikrama,VAMPK (2019). **Diversity of Amphibian Fauna in the Southern and Eastern Part of the Sinharaja Rain Forest**, 2019 Research symposium ,National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences Sri Lanka (NCAS).

- Karunaratne.M.S.L (2019). **Challenges and potentials of ecotourism practices: A case study of Sinharaja rainforest in Sri Lanka**, 15th IUFRO World Congress, Expo Unimed Convention Center, Curitiba, September 29 to October 5 2019 ,ISSN 1809

Publications on International Journals

- Jayasinghe D.B.C, Hemakumara, G.P.T.S Hewage P,(2019). **GIS Based Assessment of the Green Space Per Capita in the City of Galle, Sri Lanka**, Sri Lankan Journal of Advanced social studies, National centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social sciences, volume 7 &8,Number 1 & 2 2017-2018, ISSN 2012-9149
- Hemakumara G.P.T.S, Subhashini W.A.S.(2019).**Geospatial Analysis for Assessing the Socioeconomic Conditions in Resettlement Housing Schemes in Siribopura, Hambantota**, Sri Lanka Journal of Real Estate, Vol 13, 2018, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- Kumara, H. I. G. C., and Samarawickrama, D. R. N. S. (2019). **Diversity of Reptiles in the Eastern and Southern parts of the Sinharaja Rain Forest**. Journal of Tropical Forestry and Environment. 9 (1) 34-47.

Publications on books

- Fernando. P.W.S, Hemakumara. G.P.T.S, Hewage. P, (2019), **implementing the concept of Green space: the case of Hirdarmani Mihila CKT Apparel factory in Agalawatte, Sri Lanka**, Green Behavior and corporate social responsibility in Asia, Emerald publishing Limited, UK, 65-76, ISBN 978-1-78756-684-9
- FernandoS.L.J.(2019).**SinharajasahathadaasrithayeBhuuvidyathmakapasubimasahasw bhavika**, Morawak Korala Wanshaya, Tharanjee Printers, Maharagama, Vol. 01, 61-69.

Please feel free to give your valuables comments on Geography news, 2019 on following

Email: neel@geo.ruh.ac.lk

Mobile : 077-4392523

Tel: 041- 2222682/3301, 3302, **Fax:** 041- 2222682

Post:

Editor

Geography Newsletter , 2019

Department of Geography

University of Ruhuna

Matara

81000

Sri Lanka.