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## **“GEOGRAPHY NEWS”**

*Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna*

*January – August, 2017.*

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*“Geography News” is a biannual compilation of information on the academic activities of the staff and students of the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna, Matara. For more information, contact: Head/Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna.*

## Three Ruhuna Geographers Receive PhDs from the University Sains, Malaysia and University of Waikato, New Zealand in Recognition of Their Excellent Work.

1. Dr. S.L.J. Fernando received the PhD from University Sains, Malaysia in 2015, for the thesis titled '***Site Suitability Model for Ecotourism at the Kirala Kele Partial Nature Based Wetland of Southern Sri Lanka***'.
2. Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara received the PhD from University Sains, Malaysia in 2016, for the thesis titled '***Geo-Spatial Model of Household Inhabitants' Behaviour on Conversion of Low-Lying Areas in Sub-Urban Colombo Metropolitan Region, Sri Lanka***'.
3. Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara received the PhD from University of Waikato, New Zealand in 2016 for the thesis titled '***Challenges to Implementing Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) as a Bottom up Development Approach in the Sinharaja Rain Forest, Sri Lanka***'.

Many congratulations to all of them for their invaluable achievements reflecting years of hard work and dedication offered to the strengthening of Department.

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## Mr. G. Senarath completed his three year term as the Head, Department of Geography on August 31, 2017 and Prof. P. Hewage was appointed as New Head by the Vice Chancellor.

Vice Chancellor has appointed Professor P. Hewage as the new Head of the Department of Geography. Prof Hewage has taken up his new position on 1st September, 2017. He succeeds Mr. G. Senarath who completed his three year term on 31<sup>st</sup> August this year.

We all at the Department appreciate and thank Mr. Senarath for his untiring effort and commitment offered to the development of the Department during his tenure.

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## Two Academic Members Present Research Papers at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Humanities, University Sains, Malaysia held on 16-17<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.

1. Hemakumara, G.P.T.S and Ruslan Rainis ***Comparison of Geo Statistical Models to Assess the Conversion of Low Lying Areas to Households in the Colombo Metropolitan Region of Sri Lanka.***
  2. Hemakumara, G.P.T.S, G. Senarath and Narimah Samat ***Assessing the Scope for Improving Home Garden Agriculture in the Sub Urban Areas of Galle City, Sri Lanka.***
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## Prof. P. Hewage Delivered the Invited Speech at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Humanities, University Sains, Malaysia held on 16-17<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.

The focus of his speech was “**A Vision for Healthier Cities**”.

Prof. Hewage talked about the ‘**Health Inequities**’ still persist within urban areas, despite some progress. “New evidence shows that health inequities affect all countries and, health outcomes are even worse in urban areas than in rural areas”

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## 24<sup>th</sup> General Graduation 2017

Congratulations to all the Geography students who graduated in 2017. In another very successful year, among all graduands, 47 Special and several General Degree graduates in Geography successfully obtained their degrees in 2017. The graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements took place on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in the spectacular surroundings of University of Ruhuna where students, joined by their families, received their degrees from Vice Chancellor Prof. Gamini Senanayake in a prestigious ceremony. All the staff in the Department wishes all Geography Graduands many congratulations on their success.

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## Ruhuna Geography Professor Appointed to Review EIA Report of Uma Oya Multi Purpose Development Project

Central Environment Authority (CEA) has appointed Prof. P. Hewage to review very important issues contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of the project.

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## A New Academic Member Joins the Department of Geography

Mr. Neel Withanage joins the Department of Geography as a Probationary Lecturer with effect from September 4, 2017. With the new recruitment, the total number of permanent academic members in the Department has risen to 15. Mr. Withanage has received B.A. (Special) Degree in Geography and M.A. in Geography from University of Peradeniya and, he has also received Master of Regional Development Planning (M.R.D.P) from University of Colombo.

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## Our Academic Members Present Several Research Papers at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna (RUICHSS)

1. Edirisihnghe, G. (2017) ***Emerging Factors of Dengue Epidemic in Matara District of Sri Lanka.***
2. Yapa L.G.D.S., Karunaratne M.S.M.L., Kumara H.I.G.C. and Sumanapala M.R.N.S. (2017). ***A Comparative Study on Contribution of Home Gardens for Food Security in Sri Lanka.***
3. Kumara H.I.G.C, S Wawwage, M.S.M.L. Karunaratne and L.G.D.S. Yapa (2017). ***Bottom up Development and Issues of Biopiracy (A Case Study on Community-Based Forest Management in the Nilgala Forest Reservation, Sri Lanka).***

4. Maheshika P.A.E., Yapa L.G.D.S. Senarath G. and Rathnayake A. (2017) ***The Study on Flash Flood Mitigation in Urban Development with Special References Matara Municipal Council.***
5. Kumari D.D.N, Masakorala H.M, Maduwanthi H.H.P.S, Dhananjane K.H.C, Madhushani P.E, Samarawikrama V.A.M.P.K, Karunarthne M.S.M.L, & Kumara H.I.G.C (2017) ***Relationship between Trees and Bird: A study of birds' behavior in tropical rain forest in Sri Lanka.***
6. Jayasekara, P.K., Amarasinghe O., & Kumara H.I.G.C., (2017) ***Exploring the Travel information Sources Used by Travelers.***
7. Ranasinghe, W.C. & Hemakumara, G.P.T.S. (2017) ***Assessment of Urban Green Spaces in the Residential Areas of Issadeen Town in Matara City.***
8. Sandamali, J.M. & Hemakumara, G.P.T.S. (2017) ***Geospatial Analysis of Uma Oya Multi Purpose Project in the Context of Environmental and Social Issues.***
9. Fernando, P.W.S & Hewage, P (2017) ***Employment Adaptation Satisfaction and Related Professional Issues in the Green Industry. A Study Based On Hirdramini Mihila Apperal Industry In Mathugama.***
10. Kumara K.W.S. & Ali S.K.M. (2017). ***Spatial Analysis of Ground Water Quality in Kotaweheramankada GN Division in Thanamalwila DSD.***
11. Chandralatha W.M.G. (2017). ***Application of Community Based Disaster Risk Management into Risky Rural Areas (A Case Study of Malimboda DSD).***
12. Gunawardena G.M.W.L. and Chandralatha W.M.G. (2017). ***Soil Salinity Distribution in Matara District and Its Impact on Natural Environment.***
13. Dayalatha, W.K.V. (2017) ***Increase in Coastal Human Population in Matara and Galle Districts of Southern Sri Lanka from 1981 to 2012.***

14. Dayalatha, W.K.V. (2017) ***Status of Water Quality at Polhena, Unwatuna and Hikkaduwa Beach.***
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## **Our Academic Members also Present Several Research Papers at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka**

1. Yapa L.G.D.S. and Sampath W.L.P. (2017). ***A Study on Contribution of Home Gardens for Household Food Security with Special References to Intermediate Zone, Sri Lanka.***
  2. Maduwanthi H.A.I.L., Maduwanthi K.H.D. and Yapa L.G.D.S. (2017). ***Threats to Native Plant Species due to Widespread of Invasive Plants: Study in Sinharaja Rain forest, Pitadeniya.***
  3. Maheshika P.A.E., Senarath G. and Yapa L.G.D.S. (2017). ***The Contribution of Wligepola Pradeshiya Sabha to the Development of Regional Common Facilities.***p.82
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## **Our Academic Member Presents a Research Paper at the International Conference on Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Peradeniya**

Dayalatha, W.K.V. (2017) ***Impact of Nilwala Development Project on the Surrounding Geographical Environment.***

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## **Our Academic Member Presents a Research Paper at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Australian and New Zealand Conference of Advanced Research**

Edirisinghe, G. (2017) ***Rainfall Factor Relating to Dengue Epidemic in Sri Lanka.***

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## Our Academic Member Presents a Research Paper at the Kelaniya International Conference on Advances in Computing and Technology (KICTACT), University of Kelaniya

Withanage W.K.N.C (2017), *Monitoring of Land Use Changes Using Remote Sensing and GIS, A Case Study in Kandy Divisional Secretariat.*

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## Dr H.I.G.C. Kumara Receives 2016 Best Research Paper Presenter Award at the Technical Session on Literature, Languages and Social Sciences, 13<sup>th</sup> Academic Sessions of the University of Ruhuna.

A paper authored by Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara of the Department of Geography has been named best in the Technical Session. The paper was presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Academic Sessions of University of Ruhuna.

Kumara H.I.G.C. (2016) *Geo Political Challenges in Implementing Community Based Ecotourism in the Sinharaja Rain Forest in Sri Lanka.*

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## Declaration of Waratenna-Hakkinda in Kandy District as an Environmental Protection Area Thanks To the Efforts of an Activist Group including Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara

President of Sri Lanka has declared Waratenna-Hakkinda area in the Kandy District as an Environmental Protection Area under Section 24C of the National Environmental Act (NEA), together with the regulations aiming at prohibiting certain activities in this area under Section 24D of the NEA. This order has been published in Gazette Extraordinary No; 2024/06 of 19.06.2017. This declaration came into effect as a result of a six year struggle by a group of activists including Dr. H.I.G.C Kumara & Mr, M.S.M.L.Karunarathne who developed a strategy to get this area protected under the NEA and also to prevent several harmful activities.

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## Participation at Glocal International Teen Conference 2017 held in Nepal by a Geography Student

Congratulations to Iresha Manduwanthi, one of our special degree students who participated at the Glocal International Teen Conference (GITC) 2017 held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 31<sup>st</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. “The GITC covered a wide spectrum of topics that relates to Leadership, and the conference encapsulated the concept of Empowerment, Entrepreneurship and Social Perspective”. Alumni Association of University of Ruhuna sponsored her participation.

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## Geography Undergraduates Present Papers at Ruhuna Arts Students' Annual Session 2017 (RASAS) in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.

RASAS has been cited as a vital campaigner for producing high quality undergraduates, and referred to as 'Junior Academic Sessions'. RASAS in this year accommodated following research papers received from Geography undergraduates. Congratulations to all.

1. Hasini B.H., I.G.A.I. Harshani, U.L.L.R.Udithamali, K.M.D., Madushanka and G.A. Lakmal (2017). ***Distribution and Behavioral Patterns of Dragonflies in Tropical Rainforests (Sinharaja Pitadeniya Area)***.
2. Maduwanthi K.H.D, De Maduwanthi H.A.I.L., and Aththanayaka A.M.N.D. (2017). ***Solid Waste Management in Matara Municipal Council Area***.
3. Prabodani L.L.B. (2017). ***Impact of Human Activities on Natural Ecosystems: A Case Study on the Kirala Kele Wetland***.
4. Rajapaksha D.H.G., De Madhuwanthi H.A.I.L., Attanayake A.M.N.D., Weerasinghe R.C. and Dhananjane G.P.G.Y (2017). ***Significance of***



***Sinharaja as a Bird Diversity Hotspot: A Case Study of the Southern Slope in Sinharaja Rain Forest.***

5. Wasana H.A.T., Wimalaweera P.G., Sandamali Y.N., Rathnayaka R.M.T.K. and Udeshika A.J.R. (2017). ***Effect of Invasive Plants in Tropical Rainforests: A Study on Pitadeniya Sector of the Sinharaja Forest.***
  6. Aththanayaka A.M.N.D., De Maduwanthi H.A.I.L. and Maduwanthi K.H.D. (2017). ***A Case Study on the Potentially of Agro-tourism in the Halpe Tea Estate in Badulla.***
  7. Dhananjani G.P.G.Y. and Nishamani N.M. (2017). ***Development of Nature based Tourism in Upper Catchment Areas: A Case Study of Kithuldola Waterfall in Sri Lanka.***
  8. Kaushalya T.G.G., Padipperuma W.P., Wasana H.A.T., Lakmini H.K.N. and Prabodhani L.L.B. (2017). ***A Critical Analysis of Coast Conservation Strategies of the Southern Coastal Zoner in Sri Lanka.***
  9. Ranasinghe W.C. (2017). ***A Study on the Effect of Wild Animals Invading the Home Gardens (Hakmana Divisional Secretariat – Denagama Grama Niladhari Division).***
  10. Wasana H.A.T. (2017). ***The Impacts of Garbage Disposal in the Adam's Peak Forest Area.***
  11. Wijesinghe W.S., Thilani M.M., Harshani N.K.G., Sanjeewani K.H.N. and Lakmali N.G.G.I.(2017). ***Temporal and Spatial Variations of Birds' Behaviour in a Tropical Rain Forest: A Case Study of Sinharaja World Heritage Site.***
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## The Journal, “Post War Peace Building and Development in Sri Lanka, University of Ruhuna” Publishes Two Research Papers Co-authored by Our Staff Member Mr. M.S.M.L. Karunaratne.

1. Karunaratne, M.S.M.L and Upul Abeyratne (2017) ***The Ethnic War and Women's Perception of Ethnic others and Changing Roles of Women: A Case Study of a Culturally and Ethnically Linked Traditional Village in Anuradhapura District , North Central Province, Sri Lanka***, pp-15-39.
2. Karunaratne,M.S.M.L, Upul Abeyratne, Wasana Pushpananda, D.M Bandara and D. Hewage (2017) ***Disparities in Utilization of Natural Resources for Development of Post War Society: With Reference to Freshwater Springs in "KUNCHUTTU" Region, North Central Province, Sri Lanka***, pp-174-215.

## Mr. M.S.M.L. Karunaratne's Two Articles Appear in DIYAWARA, Newsletter of Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

1. Karunaratne,M.S.M.L, (2017), ***Tourism Potential of Regional Development in Mahaweli Areas***, pp. 20-21
2. Karunaratne,M.S.M.L, (2017), ***Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Farming***,.pp.5-6

## Mr. S.Wijerathne's Article Appears in DESATHIYA, Newsletter of Department of Government Information

Wijerathne, S, (2017), ***Environment Must be Reflected in the Development***

## Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment appoints Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara as a National Expert/Consultant

Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment has appointed Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara as National Expert/Consultant for Third National Climate Change Communication Programme. He has taken up this position with effect from 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. His research expertise is in remote sensing, GIS and Geo Statistical Modeling, the fields which are relevant to studies of climate change.

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## Sri Lanka Association of Geographers (SLAG) appoints Mr. S. Wijerathne as a Committee Member

Mr. S. Wijerathne has been appointed as a Committee Member of the Sri Lanka Association of Geographers (SLAG), for 2016/ 2017.

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## Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara invited by the Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka for a prestigious service

The Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka has appointed Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara as a Member of the Standing Committee on Training, Research & Publication with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

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## Our Academic Members' Recent Publications in Refereed Journals

1. Edirisinghe, G. (2017) ***Socio Economic and Environmental Determinants of Filariasis in Matara District in Sri Lanka***, American Scientific Research Journal for Engineering Technology and Science, ISSN online, 105 – 117.

2. Madurika, H.K.G.M, & Hemakumara, G.P.T.S. (2017). ***GIS Based Analysis For Finding Suitability Locations In The Residential Development Areas Of Greater Matara Region***. International Journal of Scientific & Technology Research, 4(8), 96-105.
3. R.P Chaminda Kumara, G.P.T.S Hemakumara, & S.K.M Ali. (2017), ***A Survey on the Linkage Between Use of Traditional Medicinal Plants and High Life Expectancy of Communities Living Near the Sinharaja Rainforest***. International Research Journal of Social Sciences Vol. 6(5), 8-14.
4. Hemakumara, G.P.T.S, & Rainis, Ruslan. (2017). ***Geo-Statistical Index for Reshaping the Pattern of Households Emerging over the Low Lying Areas of the Colombo Metropolitan Region*** International Journal of Information and Decision Sciences.
5. Kumara, H.I.G.C (2017) ***Challenges of Biopiracy: Implementing Community Based Eco-tourism (CBET) in the Sri Lankan Context***, *Journal of Tropical Forestry and Environment*, 6 (2) 36-49.
6. Kumara, H.I.G.C, Wawwage, S & Gayantha, R.L.K (2017) ***Influence of Superimposed Capitalism on Traditional Forest Utilization Systems (A Case Study on Kadawara Wewa, Niyandagala Forest Reserve, Sri Lanka)***, *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 4 (1). 32-45.
7. Fernando, S.J.L., ***Site Suitability Analysis for Ecotourism Development at the Kirala Kele Partial-Nature-Based Wetland of Southern Sri Lanka***, *International Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research (IJSBAR)* (2017), ISSN 2307-4531 (Print & Online) <http://gssrr.org/index.php?journal> Volume 32, No 3, pp 89-104.

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**Our Staff Members Receive Invitations to be Resource Persons in Several Government Establishments**

1. Mrs. Shyama Ranabahu served as a Resource Person for a Seminar conducted for the students of Bachelor of Education by the National Institute of Education (NIE), Ministry of Education on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
2. Mr. M.S.M.L. Karunaratne served as a Resource Person for a Seminar series conducted for students of Bachelor of Education by the National Institute of Education (NIE), Ministry of Education in 2017 on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
3. Prof. P. Hewage served as a Resource Person for a Seminar series conducted for Geography teachers by the National Institute of Education (NIE), Ministry of Education in 2017
4. Prof. P. Hewage served as a Resource Person for the workshop on “Career Goals and Continuous Professional Development” under the Module 2 of Certificate Course in Professional Development in Higher Education (CCPDHE)-2017 held in August 2017 at University of Ruhuna.
5. Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara served as a Resource person in Geography (Audio-Visual teaching programme) Distance and Continuing Education Unit, University of Ruhuna with effect from November 2015 to date.
6. Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara served as a Resource person for MA Degree Programme in Peace and Development Studies, University of Ruhuna in 2017.
7. Mr. S. Wijerathne served as a Resource Person for the Training Programme of Geography Teachers in the Educational Division of Matara, organized by the Ministry of Education.
8. Mr. S.Wijerathne served as a Resource Person for a Seminar series conducted for students of Bachelor of Education by the National Institute of Education (NIE), Ministry of Education in 2017 on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

9. Mr. S.Wijerathne served as a Resource Person for a seminar series conducted for students of G.C.E.(A.L.) by the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna in June 2017.
10. Mr. W.K.N.C. Withanage served as a Resource Person from June, 2015 to March, 2017 of B.Sc Degree programme in Regional Sciences and Planning of SANASA Education Campus, Kegalle.

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## Department of Geography Respects and Adhere to the Social Responsibility

Department of Geography recognizes the importance of social responsibility and, therefore, the Department encourages the academic members whose actions have served to foster social responsibility.

1. Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara has been an active member and a coordinator involved in **Suhada Community and Eco Development Foundation (SCEDF)**. SCEDF is an environmental movement headed by Prof. Ranjith Senaratne, former Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna, established for dealing with organic waste generated in Matara town and to restore the beach park and marine ecosystem in Matara town. Dr. S.L.J.Fernando also a member.
2. Sri Lankan Geography Teachers participated in a Workshop held in another country, namely Malaysia. A workshop jointly organized by the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna and Universiti Sains Malaysia paved the way for 43 Sri Lankan Geography Teachers to attend an International Training Programme for the first time. The event was jointly Co-ordinated by Mr. G.Senarath and Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara. The event took place from 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017 to 07<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

3. Geography teachers participated in a field study visit to Madulsima, Badulla which was also jointly Co-ordinated by Mr. G.Senarath and Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara.
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