



GEOGRAPHY NEWS
Department of Geography
University of Ruhuna

Biannual Newsletter

September 2017- April 2018

Volume 02

“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, Sri Lanka.

Department of Geography

University of Ruhuna

Sri Lanka

Dr S.K.M. Ali retire after finishing her excellent service to UOR



Senior Lecturer Dr S.K.M. Ali who served in the Department of Geography at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences retired on 8 January 2018, after rendering an excellent service to the University of Ruhuna over 30 years. She joined the Department in 1983 as a probationary Lecturer and obtained the PhD in 1991 from University of Durham, United Kingdom. She is a distinguished academic and specialist in Climatology. She initiated the setting up of the Meteorological Center of the University of Ruhuna. She was the coordinator of the third National Geography Conference 2010 and she represented the University of Ruhuna at a workshop on Capacity Building in

Asia on Information Technology Applications CASITA I at AIT, Bangkok, Thailand in 2003. Her tireless commitment and work have immensely contributed to uplift the Department that it enjoys today.

Prof. P. Hewage contributes to prepare Uma Oya EIA report



Prof. P. Hewage, Head of Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna, has provided an independent report for Uma Oya EIA under the request of Central Environmental Authority. He has been appreciated for this great work, which is supported to carry out the investigation on Uma Oya EIA report. Moreover, Prof. Lal Mervin Dharmasiri, Chairman of the Central Environmental Authority has appreciated him for his commendable service and the professionalism, which he has shown in this regard.

Academic Promotion...



Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade I.

Senior Lecturer Dr H.I.G.C. Kumara, specialist in Social Forestry and Bio Geography in the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade I. He has obtained BA and MPhil in Geography, University of Peradeniya, MSc in Development Management, University of Agder, Norway and PhD, Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning, University of Waikato, New Zealand. He is one of the academic staff members who

actively participates in the current curriculum development programmes of the Department of Geography. Best wishes for his great achievement.

International Commitment...

Dr. S.L.J. Fernando presents a research paper at the 9th International Conference on Education and Social Science 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand

Dr. S.L.J.Fernando presented a research paper at the 9th International Conference on Education and Social Science 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand titled **The Relationship between Geomorphology of the Waterfall and Potentiality of Ecotourism**, organized by The International Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Management (IASTEM), Thailand, 11-12 April 2018, Bangkok, Thailand. We congratulate him on his success.



Dr H.I.G.C. Kumara participates in the Second China (Sanmenxia) White Swan Wildlife International Photographic Exhibition and Conference, Jin - shan – Yu, China

Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara participated in the Second China (Sanmenxia) White Swan Wildlife International Photographic Exhibition and Conference during 10 – 15 December 2017 in Sanmenxia, Jin - shan – Yu, China. This photographic exhibition and conference was well timed with the arrival of tens of thousands of white swans gathered in the Sanmenxia City. This exhibition was open to Scholars and amateur photographers in the worldwide. As such, this was a very rare opportunities to him as a Bio Geographer in Sri Lanka.



Mr. Manjula Karunarathne successfully completes the Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate at Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey, UK

Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate is the 12-week course which is annually offered to conservationists around the world. Mr. Manjula Karunarathne, Lecturer in the Department of Geography had an opportunity to participate in this course from February to April 2018 aiming at becoming a future conservation leader and to enhance his practical specific skills in endangered species management. Therefore, we congratulate him for this significant achievement in biodiversity conservation.



Mr. Chandana Gunasena a research paper at the International Conference in Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Chandana Gunasena, Instructor in Computer Technology, Department of Geography presented a Research Paper at the 7th International Conference on Building Resilience, held on 27 – 29 November 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. His paper was titled “Eco-technological Approach to Demarcate Tsunami Evacuation Sites in Matara District, Southern Sri Lanka”. We congratulate him for his success.



International Collaborations...

Visit of the delegation from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang

Department of Geography, UOR collaborated with Universiti Sains Malaysia to disseminate knowledge and to create opportunities for higher studies between the two institutes under MoU signed in July 2016. As a part of it, Prof. Russlan Rainis and Dr. Wan Muhiyudd visited UOR along with their eight students to explore the university environment and planning the future collaborative initiatives with department of Geography. During their stay here they participated in the field study in Sri Lanka from 21 January to 28 January 2018. In this regard, special thanks should go to Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara who is the coordinator of this programme.



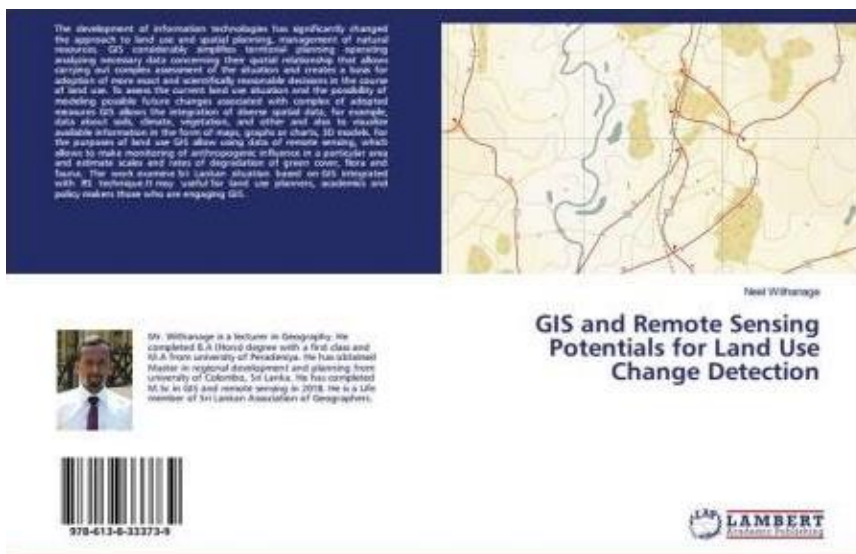
Delegation from the Chinese Academy of Sciences visits our department

Professor Yong Ge, Director and Professor Feng LU, Managing Deputy Director at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences visited the Department of Geography on 18 April 2018 on an invitation from Prof. Hewage, Head of Department. During this visit, both parties explored and discussed the possible geographical arenas of collaborations between the two universities.



Book Publication ...

Mr. Neel Withanage publishes a book titled GIS and Remote Sensing Potentials for Land Use Change Detection



A book titled “GIS and Remote Sensing Potentials for Land Use Change Detection” written by Mr. Neel Withanage, Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Geography. This book has been published by LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, Mauritius (ISBN 97861138333739). The book guides how to perform GIS based land use classification aided with Remote sensing

techniques in macro and micro spatial context. We congratulate him for his future endeavors.

Research Highlights - Academic Staff

Research paper presentation at 15th Academic Sessions: Research for Socio-ecological Sustainability, University of Ruhuna, 7th March 2018

Dayalatha, W.K.V. (2018). **Human Population Increase and Their Socio-economic Status Affected to Mangrove Resources Degradation in Southern Coastal Area.**

Amaraweera, P.H., De Silva, J., Ali, S.K.M. (2018). **Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Drought in Hambantota District using SPI Index.**

Kumara, H.I.G.C. and Samarawikrama, V.A.M.P.K. (2018). **Diversity of Dragonfly Species in the Hakkinda Islands of Mahaweli River in the Gatabe Area.**

Withanage, W.K.N.C., Hemakumara, G.P.T.S. (2018). **Why GIS is an Essential Tool to Manage the Schools Distribution Issues: Study based on Colombo District of Sri Lanka.**

Research paper presentations in International Conferences

Fernando, S.L.J. and Lakmini, H.K.N. (2017). **Forest Management and Potential of Environmental Tourism: The Case study of Kekanadura Preservation Site in Sri Lanka.** International Conference on the Humanities and Social Sciences (ICHSS) 2017, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya.

Dayalatha, W.K.V. (2017). **Increasing Human Population and Its Impacts on Fish Resources Degradation in the Southern Coastal Area in Sri Lanka.** 4th Annual Research Symposium on Social Sciences and Humanities. 20th December 2017. National Center for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS).

Amaraweera, P.H. (2018). **Flood Frequency Analysis Using the Gumbel's Distribution Method: A Case Study of Kalu Ganga Basin, Ratnapura.** Ruhuna University 4th International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS 2018). 29th March 2018, University of Ruhuna.

Withanage, W.K.N.C. (2017). **A GIS based Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) for Residential Suitability in Kandy Municipal Council.** Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (ipurse 2017). 24th November 2017. University of Peradeniya.

Withanage, W.K.N.C. (2017). **GIS applications for Residential suitability: a case study in Kandy MC.** 4th International Conference on Multidisciplinary Approaches (ICMA). 22nd September 2017. University of Sri Jayawardenapura.

Hewage, H.C.M., Fernando, S.L.J. and Nishamini, N.M. (2018). **Construction of Southern Expressway and Flood Impact in Matara Municipal Area.** Second International Conference on Climate Change 2018. 15-16 February. The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM), Sri Lanka.

Masakorala, H.M. and Fernando, S.L.J. (2018). **Trends and Challenges of Tourism Development in Madu Ganga Wetland in Sri Lanka.** Ruhuna University 4th International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS 2018). 29th March. University of Ruhuna.

Full paper publications in International Journals

Edirisinghe, G. (2017). **Socio Economic and Environmental Determinants of Filariasis in Matara District of Sri Lanka.** American Scientific Research Journal for Engineering, Technology, and Sciences (ASRJETS), 32(1), 105-118. Retrieved from http://www.Asrjetsjournal.org/index.php/American_Scientific_Journal/article/view/3015.

Edirisinghe, G. (2017). **Contribution of Rainfall Patterns for Increased Dengue Epidemic in Sri Lanka.** American Scientific Research Journal for Engineering, Technology, and Sciences (ASRJETS), 35(1), 284-294. Retrieved from http://asrjetsjournal.org/index.php/American_Scientific_Journal/article/view/3292.

Edirisinghe, G. (2017). **An Investigation into Spatial Vulnerable Factors for Dengue Epidemics using GIS in Matara District in Sri Lanka.** International Research Journal of Medical Sciences, 5(6), 1-8. Retrieved from www.wjert.org/download/article/24122017/1514614678.pdf.

Edirisinghe, G.(2017). **Reviewing in the Dengue Epidemic in the Galle District from a Medical Geographical Perspective.** World Journal of Engineering Research and Technology

(WJERT), 3(6), 357-371. Retrieved from www.wjert.org/download/article/23102017/1510827044.pdf.

Edirisinghe, G. (2018). **Emerging Factors Dengue Epidemic in Matara District in Sri Lanka**. World Journal of Engineering Research and Technology (WJERT), 4(1), 102-117. Retrieved from http://www.wjert.org/home/article_abstract/343.

Hemakumara, G.P.T.S. (2017). **Cost-Benefit Analysis of Proposed Godagama Development Node under The Greater Matara Development Planning Program**. International Research Journal of Management and Commerce., Vol 4 (9). September 2017.

Munasinghe, D., Hemakumara, G.P.T.S. and Mahanama, P.K.S. (2017). **GIS Application for Finding The Best Residential Lands in Ratnapura Municipal Council Area of Sri Lanka**, International Research Journal of Earth Sciences. Vol 5(10). November 2017.

Full paper publications in National Journals

Hemakumara, G.P.T.S. (2017). **Spatial Analysis on Why Vertical Housing Schemes are Needed for the Low-Income Families in Colombo Metropolitan Region**. The Town Planner; Journal of the Institute of Town Planners Sri Lanka (ITPSL). Vol (1) 1. December 2017.

Hemakumara, G.P.T.S. (2017). **Earnest Effort Needed to Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change and Instil Public Awareness Regarding the Multiple Threats Faced by Ratnapura Municipal Area**, Neela Haritha – The Climate Change Magazine of Sri Lanka. Vol. II. December 2017.

Kumara, H.I.G.C., Yapa L.G.D.S., Wawwage S. and Karunarthne M.S.M.L. (2017). **Issues of Biopriacy Vs Community Based Forest Management: A Case Study On in the Nilgala Forest Reservation in Sri Lanka**. Journal of Management Matters. Faculty of Management Studies, University of Rajarata.

Kumara, H.I.G.C. (2017). **Gender Issues as a Challenge to Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) In Sri Lanka**. Faculty Journal. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. University of Ruhuna.

Kumara, H.I.G.C. (2017). **Geo-political Challenges in Implementing Community Based Eco-Tourism in the Sinharaja Rain Forest in Sri Lanka**. Rohana. Research Journal of the University of Ruhuna.

Ranabahu, R.A.S.P. (2018). **Productive Engagement among Community-Dwelling Elders of Sri Lanka**. Social Sciences and Humanities Review, Vol 03, No 01, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna.

Karunaratne, M.S.M.L. (2018). **The Ecotourism as a Sustainable Development Approach: A Case Study on Sinharaja World Heritage Site in Sri Lanka**. The Faculty Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences. Vol 07(01). Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. University of Ruhuna.

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කරුණාරත්න, එම්.එස්.එම්.එල්. සහ ලියනාරච්චි, පී. (2017). මහවැලි ගංගා දෝණියේ භෞතික භූ ගෝලීය පසුබිම. හෙළ වාරි පුරාවත. කොළඹ. මහවැලි කේන්ද්‍රය. මහවැලි සහ පරිසර අමාත්‍යාංශය.

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Completed research projects in the Field of Biodiversity, Sri Lanka

Kumara, H.I.G.C. and Samarawikrama, V.A.M.P.K. (2017). **Diversity of Dragonfly Species in The Hakkinda Islands of Mahaweli River in the Gatabe Area**. Funded by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. University of Ruhuna.

Kumara, H.I.G.C. and Samarawikrama, V.A.M.P.K. (2017). **Diversity of Reptile and Amphibian in Low Land Rain Forests of Sri Lanka (A Study Based on the Southwestern Section of the Sinharaja Rain Forest)**. Funded by Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment Biodiversity Secretariat Small Grant Research Programme.

Ongoing research projects

Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara obtained a research permit, which is granted by Forest Department of Sri Lanka from 2018 to 2020. The title of this project is **The Diversity of Orchid Species in the Knuckles Conservation World Heritage Forest (KCF) in Sri Lanka**.

Research Contributions of Geography Students

Geography students present research papers at the First National Conference of Undergraduates on Environment and Development (NCUED 2017), University of Kelaniya, 20th December

De Maduwanthi, H.A.I.L., Maduwanthi, K.H.D., Munasinghe, S.R.M.D., Dulanjalee P.M.I. and Prabodani L.L.B. (2017). **Study the Socio Economic Impacts of Changes in the Rural Land Use due to Increasing Population.**

Lakeesha, W.A., Silva, T.U.M., Udithamali, U.L.L.R., Darshani, P.J. and Aththanayaka, A.M.N.D.(2017). **Study of Enhancing Local Tourism in Mirissa.**

Lakmini, I.K.N., Sndamali, L.G.S., Dharshani, L.J., Lakmini, J.K.S. and Bandara, L.M.S. (2017). **Structural Difference of Plant Community: Spatial Distribution of Tropical Rain Forest in Sri Lanka. A Case Study of Sinharaja Rain Forest.**

Prabodhani, L.L.B. Thushari, D. Maduwanthi, D.H.A.I.L. Munasinghe, S.R.M.D. and Maduwanthi, K.H.D. (2017). **A Study of KiralaKele Reservation as a Potential Eco-tourism Hotspot.**

Thushari, D., Dhanajalee, W.A.J. Rathnayake, A.U., Munasinghe, S.R.M.D., Prabodhani, L.L.B and Udari, M.S. (2017). **A Study of Mammals' Diversity at Sinharaja Tropical Rain Forest in Sri Lanka.**

Geography students present at 2nd Folklore Research Conference (FLRC 2017), Art Assembly and Cultural Center, University of Sri Jayawaradhanapura. 15 December 2017.

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මුණසිංහ, එස්.ආර්.එම්.ඩී. මධුවන්ති, කේ.එච්.ඩී. සහ ද මධුවන්ති, එච්.ඒ.අයි.එල්. (2017). ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ වී වගාව ආශ්‍රිත සාම්ප්‍රදායික කෘෂිකර්මාන්තයේ දක්නට ලැබෙන අභිචාර හා කෙම්ක්‍රම (මිනිසේ ගොවි ජනපද ව්‍යාපාර ඇසුරින්)

ලක්මාලි, එච්.ඒ.ටී., හේවගේ, ඩී.එච්.ටී.කේ., දර්ශනී, පී.ජේ., උදිතමාලි, යූ.එල්.එල්.ආර්. සහ ආරියරත්න, ආර්.එම්.යූ.එස්. (2017). සාම්ප්‍රදායික අත්බෙහෙත් ක්‍රම හා නූතන මානව සංජානනයන් පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනයක් (අක්මීමන ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසය ඇසුරින්).

දර්ශනී, පී.ජේ., උදිතමාලි, යූ.එල්.එල්.ආර්., ලක්මාලි, එච්.ජී.ටී., ආර්යරත්න, ආර්.එම්.යූ.එස්. සහ හේවගේ, ඩී.එච්.ටී.කේ. (2017). ග්‍රාමීය ජන ජීවිතය හා බැඳුණු ගම්මඩු ශාන්ති කර්මය පිළිබඳ විමර්ශනාත්මක අධ්‍යයනයක්.

කෞශලයා, ටී.ජී.ජී., ප්‍රබෝධනී, එල්.එල්.බී. සහ නිසංසලා, බී.එච්. (2017). දේවාල ආශ්‍රිත පවතින අහිචාර විධි හා සිරිත් විරිත් සම්බන්ධ අධ්‍යයනය (දෙවිනුවර පූජා භූමිය ඇසුරින් සිදු කළ අධ්‍යයනයකි)

කෞශලයා, ටී.ජී.ජී., ප්‍රබෝධනී, එල්.එල්. බී. සහ නිසංසලා, බී.එච්. (2017). පාරිභෝගික තෘප්තිමත්භාවය හා ලාභය අරමුණු කරගත් ජන ආහාර සංස්කෘතියෙහි වෙනස්කම් (මාතර නගර සීමාව ඇතුළත සිදු කළ අධ්‍යයනයකි)

ප්‍රබෝධනී, එල්.එල්.බී., කෞශලයා, ටී.ජී.ජී. සහ නිසංසලා, බී.එච්. (2017). ජනකවිය හා බැඳුණු ගැමි දිවියේ යථාර්ථය පිළිබඳව සෞන්දර්යාත්මකව අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම.

Geography student presents the research paper at 3rd National Buddhist Conference (BUSL NBC 2017), Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka

අත්තනායක, ඒ.එම්.එන්.ඩී., උදිතමාලි, යූ.එල්.එල්.ආර්. සහ දර්ශනී, පී.ජේ. (2017). බෞද්ධ ආර්ථික දර්ශනයට පටහැනිව වර්තමානයේ කෘෂිකර්මාන්තය තුළ කෘෂිකර්මාන්තය භාවිතයේ දී ඇති වී ඇති ගැටලු පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනයක්.

Appointments...

Prof. P. Hewage served as;

Program reviewer from 5 July to 31 December 2017

A member of by-law committee, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, university of Ruhuna

Visiting lecturer, Department of Geography, University of Kelaniya

Dr. G. Edirisinghe serves as;

Coordinator in Anti Dengue Campaign, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna with effect from January 2018

Dr.S.L.J. Fernando has been appointed as;

Deputy Senior Student Counselor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna with effect from 01.02.2018 to 01.01.2019 under the University Act.

Senior Treasurer of Student Union Council, University of Ruhuna.

Ms. R.A.S.P.Ranabahu, served as;

Chairperson of a Technical Session at the 1st National Conference of Undergraduates on Environment and Development (NCUED) 2017 organized by the Department of Geography, University of Kelaniya on 20 December 2017.

Session Discussant at the Ruhuna University 4th International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS)-2018 organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna on 29 March 2018.

Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara serves in several positions at university and national level as;

A member of Internal review Panel of Self Evaluation Report / Faculty of Management and Finance/ University of Ruhuna on February, 2018 by University Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU) of University of Ruhuna.

A Review member of UGC Programme Reviewer 2017- 11 to 13 September 2017- General Degree Programme-Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities – Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

A Committee member of UGC Programme Reviewer, from 20 to 22 September 2017- Cluster 3- Faculty of Arts – University of Peradeniya and as a committee member of UGC Programme.

Reviewer on 6 to 8 November 2017 at Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

A Committee Member of the Town Planner, Journal of Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka.

National Expert on Education, Training, Capacity Building and Awareness. Third National Communication on Climate Change (TNC) Project, Climate Change Secretariat (CCS), Ministry of Mahawali Development and Environment (MMDE) .

Other Appointments

The following staff members served in **the preparation of Self-evaluation Report of Program Review 2017** in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prof. P.Hewage - Chairman

Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara – Convener

Ms. L.G.D.S. Yapa – Secretary

Dr. S.L.J. Fernando – A member of review committee

The following staff members serve in **several potions at Natural Disaster Information Center, University of Ruhuna**

Mr. S. Wijearthne –Coordinator

Ms. Shyama Ranabahu –Secretary

Dr.G. Edirisinghe –Treasurer

Mr. Manjula Karunarathne – Media Coordinator

Dr. S.L.J. Fernando –Editor

Prof. P. Hewage, Mr.G. Senarath and Mr. S. Wijeratne –The members of Advisory Committee

Prof. M.Rathnayake, Mrs. W.K.V. Dayalatha, Mr. P. Amaraweera, Dr. Chaminda Kumara, Dr.G.P.T.S. Hemakumara, Mrs. Sewwandika Yapa and Mr. Chandana Gunasena - The members of Organizing Committee

Start ups.....

Establishment of the Natural Disaster Information Centre (NDIC) at University of Ruhuna

The Department of Geography established the NDIC at University of Ruhuna to facilitate students, undergraduates, scientists, researches and the general public to obtain the relevant information on natural disasters. This center will help to gain knowledge and skills required in successful pre-disaster planning and post disaster rehabilitation. Mr. S. Wijerathne, Senior Lecturer in Department of Geography serves as the Coordinator of this Centre. At present, two professors and five lecturers are specialized in disaster related subjects in the Department of Geography and it is expected to provide the services of these resource persons to make the service of this center fruitfully. Preparation of a communication system of Ruhuna University is

one of the recent significant activities of this center. A list of staff members and officers were prepared and sent to the Regional Disaster Management Centre, Matara to communicate the information of disaster events, which may occur in any time.

Establishing an Environmental Researcher's Forum (ERF) as a united voice to protect and advocate for natural resources

ERF was established by Mr. Manjula Karunaratne, Lecturer at Department of Geography as a student society in October 2017 at the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna. Establish and promote an environmental research culture among undergraduate students and university academics, develop research based relationships among internal and external institutions and individuals and awake and empower the general public through providing and sharing information and knowledge related to natural resources and environment are the objectives of this forum. Now it is one of the active students' societies in University of Ruhuna. In addition, Mr. Manjula Karunaratne, has been appointed as Senior Treasurer of the ERF.

Initiating Internship programs for Geography special students

The overall purpose of the training program is to train graduates of Geography to be familiar with working environment and develop their working capacity, skills and qualities to market their capabilities. This training is necessary to fulfill the subject related practical activities and to expand employment opportunities covering the Geography discipline in the job market. The Department of Geography will coordinate the program among students and the institutions. The main role of the department is to direct Geography special graduates to gain working experience before their graduation. Land Use Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Survey Department, Marine Environment Protection Authority, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka, Department of Irrigation, Department of Census and Statistics, Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply, Galle Municipal Council, Central Environmental Authority, Department of Coast Conservation and Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority will offer the training programme for our students. At the end of the training period, the Department of Geography expects a report from the head of the institution on candidates' performance at the particular institution. Based on that report, the Department of Geography will award the student a certificate of completion of the training program. Mr. Manjula Karunaratne, Lecturer at Department of Geography coordinates this program with the support of Ms. Maduka Jeewanthi and Ms. Wasana Fernando, Assistant Lecturers in the Department of Geography.

Social Contribution...

Public awareness through media

Dr. G. Edirisinghe and Mr. S. Wijerathne Participated in a live radio programme at Ruhunu Sevaya on 3 December 2017 titled on Tropical depression of “Ockhi” and introduction of Natural Disaster Information Centre, Department of Geography.

Dr. S.L.J.Fernando and Mr. P.H.Amaraweera participated in a live radio programme (*Sanidha Kathikawatha*) at RUHUNU SEVAYA on 9 December 2017 about Disaster Risk Reduction.

Awareness through programmes

Seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management was conducted by Matara Disaster Management Centre and Natural Disaster Information Centre, Department of Geography on 13 October 2017 at District Secretariat Office in Matara. Dr. S.L.J. Fernando, Mr. S. Wijerathne and Mr. Palitha Amaraweera participated as resource persons for this event.



Dr. S.L.J.Fernando, Mr. S. Wijerathna and Mr. P.H.Amaraweera have participated as Resource Persons for the awareness programme conducted for the school teachers and students by the Disaster Management Centre, Matara for the World Disaster Minimizing Day on 13 October 2017.

Tsunami drill and awareness program for the rural communities in Matara were organized on 05 November 2017 at Sariputhra MahaVidyala, Matara. Mr. S. Wijerathne was the resource person for this programme.



The First workshop on Volunteering for Disaster Risk Reduction was held successfully for final year students in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences on 10 November 2017 at Auditorium, Department of Geography. This workshop was conducted by the United Nations Volunteers Programme.



Dr.S.L.J. Fernando delivered a lecture at the Natural Disaster Information Center, in Matara District with titled on “Flood Disaster and environmental impact of Matara Municipal area” on 10 November, 2017

Awareness program for the National Protective Day of Disaster was held on 26 December 2017 at Fisheries Community Centre, Thotamuna, conducted by Disaster Management Centre, Matara. Dr. G. Edirisinghe participated as the resource person.

Dr.S.L.J. Fernando organized a seminar program at the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna for the school students of WP/KE/ Udupila Weera Vijayaba Maha Vidyalaya, Delgoda on 29 November 2017 and Prof. P. Hewage participated as a chief Guest for school programme on students leaders’ personality development.

ERF conducted a tree plantation campaign at the Wellamadama main university premises on 26 January 2018 with the participation of many students, staff members and official of the forest department. More than 100 plants have been planted and there was a huge interest among students towards this. The chief guest of the event was the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The ERF website was launched by Senior Professor P. Hewage, the Head of the Department of Geography. Dr Pradeep Nalaka Ranasinghe, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology was the key speaker at the event. In his speech, he stressed that the major disaster of this era is the commercialization of environmental activists. It is, therefore, a dire need to be involved in environmental conservation activities in various ways, as groups, individuals and as future citizens, he further mentioned. Mr. Manjula Karunaratne, Lecturer, Department of Geography coordinated this event.



Field Excursions...

Field visit to Bulathsinhala landslide prone area

Students who are following Natural Hazard (GEO 22673) have attended a field visit in Bulathsinhala Landslide area on 02 February 2018. The objectives of this visit were to identify the impacts of landslide, settlers' response and preparation regarding mitigation. Students collected data using observation, interviews and discussions during the field visit and later analyzed and interpreted their findings of the survey. The field activity was conducted on the whole day by Mr. Palitha Amaraweera and Mr. Neel Withanange.

Institutional visit to gather information for future research

Students who are following GEO 32633 – Hydrology and Water Resource Management have visited the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Hector Kobbakaduwa Agrarian Research Technology Institute (HARTI) with Ms. Sewwandika Yapa on 30 January 2018. Prime objective of the visit was to gather information regarding the research collaborations

in the field of water management in Sri Lanka. It was a great opportunity for all students to share the ideas and make a linkage with those two institutes for their future studies.

Developing practical knowledge of water quality testing with the help of Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology

The students who follow the course unit of Environmental Pollution and Control (GEO 32623) at the Department of Geography were able to visit the laboratory in Department of Limnology and Water Technology to learn water quality testing on 14 December 2017. Our heartfelt thanks go to Dean, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology who gave permission and providing all assistance to make this study success.



Field visit to Magampura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port, Hambanthota

Students who are following Transport and Development (GEO 42633) have attended a field visit in Magmpura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port, which has a natural harbor and is located in the southern tip of Sri Lanka close to international shipping routes. The main objective of this field visit was to observe the port related activities and their contribution to regional development. This field visit was organized by Prof. P. Hewage, Dr. G. Edirisinghe and Mr. Neel Weethanage.

Field observation in Kanneliya forest reserve by third year students

Field Observation under the subject of Biogeography (GEO 32643) of the 3rd year students was successfully conducted on 09 January 2018 at Kanneliya Forest Reserve. It was focused on observation on flora and fauna diversity in Kanneliya forest. The field activities were conducted on the whole day by Mr. Manjula Karunaratne and Mr. Neel Withanage and it was successful especially for the students who wish to pursue their research studies in Biogeography.



Field excursion to observe the impacts of climate change scenario at Hikkaduwa National Park

Field excursion with final year students who are following Global Climate Change (GEO 42613) on 25 January 2018 at Hikkaduwa National Park. Prime objective of the field visit was to study the impact of climate change on coral reef. Especial lecture was prepared by Hikkaduwa Wildlife Conservation Department for the students and this field visit was conducted by Mr. Palitha Amaraweera and Mr. Neel Withanage.



Field visit to Embilipitiya to identify the agroforestry and tourism potentials

Field excursion with second year students who are following Tourism Geography (GEO 22653) on 28 December 2017 at Embilipitiya. Prime objectives of the field visit were to identify strengths of the particular site to implementing agro-forestry and ago-tourism and challenges and weakness of the site to develop agro-forestry and agro-tourism activities. Further, it was aimed to develop conceptual framework to implementing agro-forestry and agro-tourism activities. Data collection methods such as informal and semi structured interviews were done by the students at the field. Dr. H.I.G.C. Kumara conducted this field visit.

Field observation in Kalamatiya and Bundala

Students who are following GEO 42623- Geographical Profile of Southern Sri Lanka have attended a field visit in Kalamatiya, Rakawa and Bundala on 22 December 2017. The objective of this visit were to identify the changes of geographical profile of Southern Sri Lanka. Field activities such as direct field observation, soil sample and specimens collections were done by the students at the field. These field activities were conducted on the whole day by Dr. S.L.J. Fernando and Ms. R.A.S.P. Ranabahu.



News and Suggestions to be sent to

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