

Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE (InRO)

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, SRI LANKA

International Week 2023



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With the concept of internationalization of University of Peradeniya, the International Relations Office is in its journey of enhancing global Relations, promotes multidisciplinary collaborative research programs, and facilitating students and staff members with resources and providing platforms to scholarly exchanges.

University of Peradeniya



International Week 2023



27th November to 01st December 2023 at the University of Peradeniya premises

Activity Plan of the Week:

Monday - 27th November

Inauguration Ceremony

Tuesday - 28th November

- i) Virtual webinar Japanese Government Scholarships (Monbukagakusho)
- ii) JICA Chair Programme

Wednesday - 29th November

"International Symposium on Pathogen Genomics" :
In collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Science

Thursday - 30th November

International cultural day programme: In collaboration with the Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy

Friday- 01st December

"Empowering Global Citizens: Shaping a Sustainable Future Amidst Climate Crisis" Program: In Collaboration with the Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES)

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For More Info:

https://hro.pdn.ac.lk/iw_2023/index.php



Postgraduate Institute of Science
University of Peradeniya

CENTRE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY

Organized by: International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya

About the International Week 2023



Internationalization has become a key component in the changing landscape of higher education as a means to increase the global engagement for staff, students, and faculty of higher education institutions.

Sri Lanka too must re-position its international profile in its higher education system to enhance its global visibility to emerge as a key hub for knowledge and learning in the world.

In order to bring this to the common agenda, the International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya came up with the concept of International Week 2023.

The International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya organized International Week 2023 to expand international collaborations, expose university students and staff to international educational opportunities, strengthen its international presence in higher education, and enhance its global visibility to emerge as a key hub for knowledge and learning.

This week was held from 27th November– 01st December 2023 in collaboration with the Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy, the Japan Embassy in Sri Lanka, Japan International Cooperation Agency Sri Lanka Office, Postgraduate Institute of Sciences, Sri Lanka Japan Study Center, and the Center for Environmental Sustainability.

**27th
Nov**



 YouTube



The Inauguration Ceremony

The Inauguration ceremony of the international week was held successfully on the 27th of November 2023 with the participation of Excellency Bonnie Horbach, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Sri Lanka, Dr. Athira S., Assistant High Commissioner, Assistant High Commission of India, Mr. Stefan Winkler, Director of the Goethe Institute, Prof. Yuansong Wei, From the Chinese Academy of Science, China, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, the Deputy Vice chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, the Deans of the faculties, Directors of Postgraduate Institutes, Prof. C.N.R.A Alles, Director, International Relations Office,

University of Peradeniya, the Heads of the Departments and the management committee members of the International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya.



H.E Prof. Janitha Liyanage, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, H.E. Andres Marcelo Gonzalez Garrido, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba for Sri Lanka, Madam Maria L. Popova, First Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Sri Lanka, Rectors and Vice-rectors of the partner universities participated in the Inauguration ceremony via zoom.









“Hidden Treasures” Art Exhibition



The Main Library, University of Peradeniya is pleased to announce the success of the ‘Hidden Treasures’ Art Exhibition, hosted from November 27th to December 1st ,2023, in celebration of International Week. This event took place alongside a series of programmes organized by the International Relations Office (InRO) for International Week 2023.



International Week 2023

**Main Library
University of Peradeniya**

"Hidden Treasures"

Art Exhibition

27th November – 01st December 2023

Selected Paintings of
**George Keyt, Stanley Kirinde,
George Claessen, Kenneth de Lanerolle,
Richard Gabriel and Chandra Malalgoda**

**Inaugural opening
27th November, 2023**

Time: 11.30 AM

**Venue: Art Gallery, New Library Building (Ground Floor)
University of Peradeniya**

With the Presence of
**Her Excellency
Ms. Bonnie Horbach
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Sri Lanka**
and

**Her Excellency
Dr. S. Athira
Assistant High Commissioner of India
Kandy, Sri Lanka.**

Opened: 28th November to 01st of December - 8.30AM - 4.00PM

For more information:

Librarian, Main Library, University of Peradeniya. (Office :+94 812392471, PABX: 2471)





The opening ceremony took place on 27th November, 2023, at 11:30 AM at the Art Gallery in the New Library Building. The exhibition was inaugurated by Her Excellency Ms. Bonnie Horbach, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Sri Lanka, and Her Excellency Dr. S. Athira, Assistant High Commissioner of India, Kandy, Sri Lanka. Dignitaries present included the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Librarian, Director of InRO, Deans of faculties, academics, students, non-academic staff, media, and the general public. The exhibition was open to the public for five days, attracting school children, professional artists, scholars, and numerous visitors. Attendees had the opportunity to explore the paintings and visit the Professor Ediriweera Sarachchandra Museum, along with archival Palm-Leaf collections.

The programme was directed by Mr. R. Maheswaran, The Librarian at the University of Peradeniya, and supervised by Dr. (Ms.) C.N.K. Alahakoon, Deputy Librarian. Coordination was handled by Assistant Librarians S.A. Jeewan and Ms. Chamilka De Silva, along with a team of nine members. Additionally, all Main Library Staff actively contributed to the success of this programme.





28th
Nov



Webinar on “Japanese Government Scholarships”

Web session on Japanese Government Scholarships was successfully conducted by the International Relations Office on the 28th of November 2023 in collaboration with the JICA Sri Lanka Office in Sri Lanka, the Japanese Embassy in Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lanka Japan Study Center, in parallel to the International Week 2023 of the University of Peradeniya.

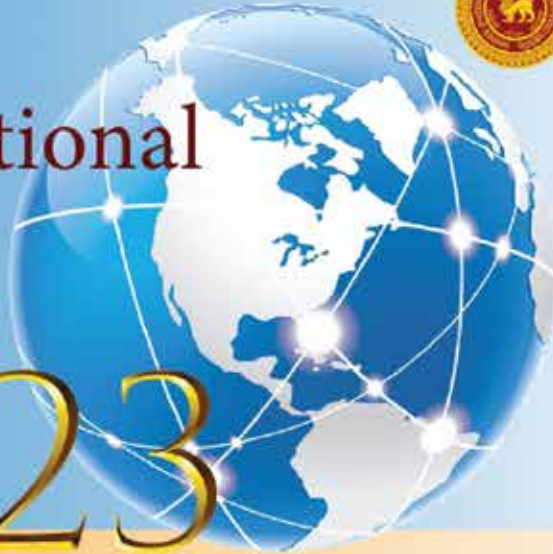
Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of the International Relations Office, welcomed the resource people and the participants on behalf of the University of Peradeniya. Mr. Kenji Inoue (the First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan) and Ms. Yuri Ide, the Senior Representative of the JICA Sri Lanka Office, participated as the resource persons of the Web sessions. During the Information Session, Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) funding program, the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship, and other Japanese Scholarships were discussed followed by a Q & A session.



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA



International Week 2023



Virtual Webinar on Japanese Government Scholarships (Monbukagakusho)



Date: 28th November 2023

Time: 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. (Sri Lanka Standard Time)

“Connect with us and
open doors to a world
of educational
possibilities in Japan!”



Ms. Yuri Ide
Senior representative
JICA Sri Lanka Office



Mr. Kenji Inoue
The First Secretary
Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka

- Who Should Attend:

Students aspiring to pursue higher education in Japan

Educators interested in promoting Japanese scholarship opportunities.

Anyone curious about the cultural and academic experiences in Japan.

Zoom link:



<https://learn.zoom.us/j/93161875777?pwd=ajNTWGFPUpEOctVbGppZXVjL1U2UT09>

For more information:

Ms. Shyamali Tennekoon
Project Manger
International Relations Office
(projectmangerinro@gs.pdn.ac.lk, Tel: 0812059390)

Conducted by: International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with JICA Sri Lanka Office



JICA Chair^{Program}

The 4th JICA Chair Session on Japan and International Law was held on the 28th of November 2023 from 3 pm to 4 pm at the Seminar Room of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya. It was organized in collaboration with the International Relations Office as part of the International Week of the University of Peradeniya. The Session was held in the hybrid mode with more than seventy students joining on-site and over 205 students joining online.

The Lecture on Japan and International Law was conducted by Dr. Kanehara Atsuko, a Professor of International Law at the Sophia University in Japan via a recorded video. The Programme was moderated by Prof. Lalani Yatawara, Head, Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya and Coordinated by Dr. Panduka Neluwala, Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Peradeniya.



JAPAN'S MODERNIZATION STUDIES

CHAPTER 10:
Japan and Modern International Law

Nov 28, 2023

3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.



Seminar Room 2,
Faculty of Engineering
University of Peradeniya



zoom

<https://bit.ly/JICA-Chair-UoP3>

Meeting ID: 946 2822 4605
Passcode: Jicach@28



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பேராதனைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

JICA Chair Program



Prof. Kanehara Atsuko
International Law
Sophia University



Moderator
Prof. Lalani Yatawara
University of Peradeniya



Coordinator
Dr. Bimali Weerakoon
University of Peradeniya

More info

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Organized by



Sri Lanka – Japan Study Centre
University of Peradeniya

In collaboration with



International Relations
Office (InRO)
University of Peradeniya



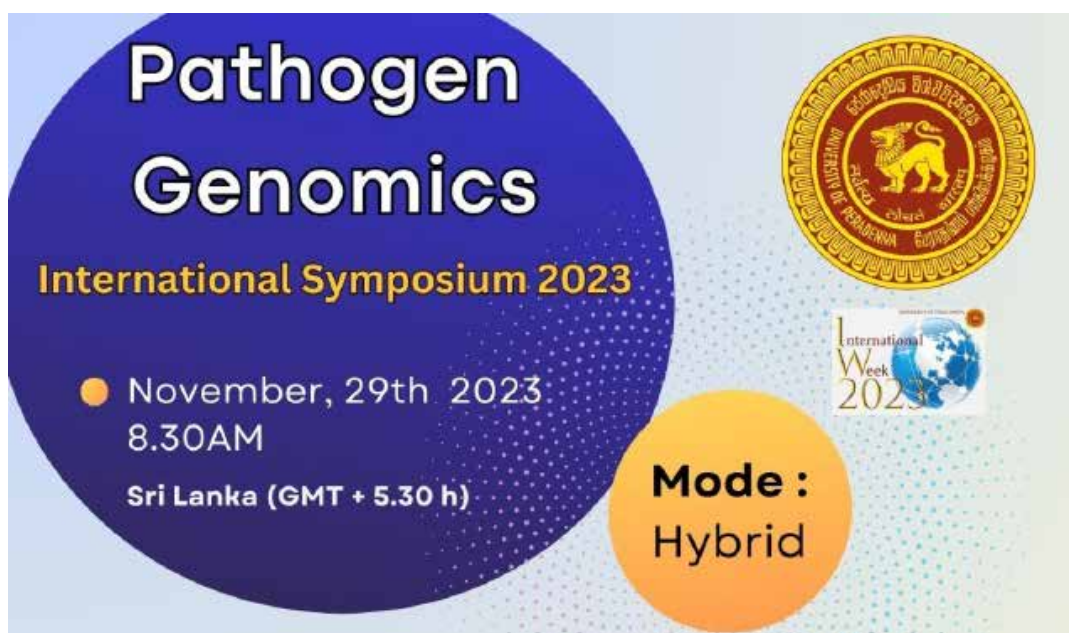
Association of Sri Lanka
Academics in Japan



Japan International
Corporation Agency



**29th
Nov**



**Pathogen
Genomics**

International Symposium 2023

● November, 29th 2023
8.30AM

Sri Lanka (GMT + 5.30 h)

**Mode :
Hybrid**

International Symposium on “Pathogen Genomics”

The International Symposium on Pathogen Genomics, organized by the Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences at the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the International Relations Office (InRo), University of Peradeniya, was successfully held on November 29th, 2023, at the PGIS conference hall. This event was organized as a hybrid event, with over 50 participants joining both virtually and



physically from all over the country. Participants from various disciplines, including molecular biology, microbiology, bioinformatics, epidemiology, biomedical sciences, and agriculture, participated in this event. The symposium commenced with a brief inaugural ceremony attended by Prof. H.M.T.G.A. Pitawala, Director of PGIS; Prof. Neil Alles, Director of InRO; Dr. Roshan Madalagama, Principal Scientist of Veterinary Research Institute of Sri Lanka; Dr. Priyanga Wijesinghe, Chairperson of the Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences; Dr. Piyumali Perera, Secretary of Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences, PGIS; and participants who joined virtually and physically. The symposium featured three speeches from eminent researchers in the field, followed by an expert panel discussion. Dr. Roshan Madalagama from the Veterinary Research Institute elucidated the National Policy on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and discussed the advantages and limitations of genomics



within the country's current context. Dr. Ruklanthi de Alwis from Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore focused on the Asia Pathogen Genomics Initiative (Asia PGI) and its implementation in resource-limited settings, particularly emphasizing disease surveillance. Dr. Lakmal Jayasinghe from Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT), joining from the UK, delved into the comprehensive capabilities of ONT as a tool for analyzing genetic material from any pathogen, by anyone, anywhere. Furthermore, all speakers highlighted job opportunities in related fields, targeting postgraduate students and early-career professionals. Recognizing pathogen genomics as a relatively novel discipline for most of the participants, Dr. Priyanga Wijesinghe conducted a pre-symposium session on November 27th covering the basics of genomics to better equip the attendees to reap the maximum benefit from the symposium. The symposium culminated in a panel discussion involving experts such as Prof. Priyanka De Silva, Prof. Rasika Jinadasa, Dr. Lakmal Jayasinghe, and Prof. Veranja Liyanapathirana. This discussion addressed the remaining questions and charted a path forward in the field. Participants offered valuable feedback following the International Symposium on Pathogen Genomics. Their input emphasized the need for more practical aspects and increased interaction in future sessions. Extended workshops spanning 2–3 days were suggested to delve deeper into a wider array of topics. Attendees expressed their interest in various subfields of genomics, and the utilization of pathogenic genomics in vaccine preparation and antimicrobial resistance mechanisms. Many found the session highly informative and expressed gratitude to the organizing committee, advocating for the continuation of similar symposia with hands-on experiences.





Pathogen Genomics International Symposium 2023

HAVEN'T YOU REGISTERED YET?

● November, 29th 2023
8.30AM

Mode : Hybrid

For more information: biomed@pgis.lk



**REGISTER
BEFORE
27.11.2023
12.00 PM**
Sri Lanka
(GMT + 5.30 h)



Genomics on AMR: Advantages and Limitations

Dr. Roshan Madalagama

Principal Scientist, Bacteriology & Pathology,
Veterinary Research Institute, Sri Lanka.



Pathogen Genomic Surveillance Among Lower Resource Settings in Asia

Dr. Ruklanthi de Alwis

Deputy Director | Centre for Outbreak Preparedness, Assistant Professor | Programme in
Emerging Infectious Disease,
Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore



Oxford Nanopore – Analyse Anything, By Anyone, Anywhere

Dr. Lakmal Jayasinghe

SVP R&D Biologics,
Oxford Nanopore Technologies, UK



Panel Discussion



REGISTER NOW !

Scan QR code now
to book your seats !

A pre-symposium session on “Basics of Genomics”
Dr. Priyanga Wijesinghe
Senior Lecturer, Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya

Date: 27/11/2023
Time: 7.00 PM



{ ISSUES }

See pathogens through the lens of genomics

DR. PRIYANKA WIJESINGHE

The pandemic due to the severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus two (SARS Coronavirus 2/Covid-19) took nearly seven million lives while turning the world economy upside down, with an International Monetary Fund estimation of United States dollars (\$) 28 trillion, marking the steepest downturn since World War II.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recognised Covid-19 as a wake-up call and a dress rehearsal for future challenges. If it is the case, it is a no-brainer that similar threats of equal magnitude would push humanity into the stone age. In this context, Asia remains the most vulnerable region for emerging diseases in the world due to high population density, relatively high levels of human-wildlife interactions, shifting climate, and other anthropogenic activities such as poor antibiotic stewardship that tips the balance of delicate life processes.

According to German

theoretical physicist Albert Einstein: "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking that we used when we created them." Therefore, we need bigger and better solutions to tackle problems of the above calibre.

The actions of pathogens are determined for the most part by their genetic make-up. Genomics can be introduced as a technology to shine a light not just on a part of the genetic blueprint of a pathogen, but to read its entire genetic make-up, or the genome, including the evolutionary tricks in the name of variants; i.e. the genome is the ultimate instruction manual for all living things including pathogens like bacteria and viruses.

However, to implement such a powerful yet relatively expensive tool in our region effectively and sustainably, a great deal of brainstorming, planning, and execution has to happen. Towards this end, we need a more knowledgeable and skillful workforce on genomics.



Furthermore, we believe in the teamwork of multiple groups working in unison on a common goal over isolated attempts to embark on mammoth tasks like infectious disease surveillance

International Relations Office at the Peradeniya University are organising an international symposium on pathogen genomics today (29) in hybrid mode.

The speakers include Dr. Roshan Madalagama from the Veterinary Research Institute, explaining the National Policy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the advantages and limitations of genomics in the present context in the country.

Dr. Ruklanthi de Alwis from Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore, will talk about the Asia Pathogen Genomics Initiative and its implementation in a resource-limited setting, especially focusing on disease surveillance.

Dr. Lakmal Jayasinghe from the Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT) – joining from the United Kingdom – will go over the breadth and depths of ONT as an enabling tool to analyse any pathogen-derived genetic material by anyone anywhere.

All speakers will touch upon job opportunities in related fields, as

the major target audience of the symposium will be postgraduate students and early career professionals. As genomics is still a relatively novel discipline, the writer (Wijesinghe) will cover the basics of genomics at a pre-symposium session so that attendees will be better equipped to get the maximum from the symposium.

Moreover, the symposium will end with a panel discussion to address remaining questions and to discuss the way forward. It will feature a panel of experts comprising Prof. Priyanka De Silva, Prof. Rasika Jinadasa, and Prof. Veranja Liyanapathirana in addition to the above speakers of the symposium. While Covid-19 contributed to advanced science and technology in pandemic preparedness, including the applications of genomics, we should not lose sight of other priority pathogens in the region in the years to come.

(The writer is a senior lecturer attached to the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya)

**30th
Nov**



International Cultural Day Programme

With the aim of promoting cross-cultural understanding and fostering a sense of unity and appreciation among different cultures, the International Relations Office of the University of Peradeniya organized the International Cultural Day program in collaboration with the Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy on the 30th of November 2023 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

H.E. Dr. Athira S., Assistant High Commission of India to Sri Lanka, Kandy, Prof. Sarath S. Kodithuwakku, the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, the Deans of the Faculties, Prof. C.N.R.A Alles, Director, International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya, the management committee members of the International Relations Office, Heads of the Departments, the academic and non-academic staff members of the University of Peradeniya, and the students and staff of the Schools in Kandy District participated in the event. The program included the Indian cultural dances performed by the students from Theldeniya National College, Nugawela Central College, Swarnamali Girls' College, Badi-Uddin College, and Hindu Nikethan-Kurunegala.







UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA



International Week 2023

INTERNATIONAL

CULTURAL DAY PROGRAMME

Join us for an enchanting journey into
the heart of Indian culture!

Program Highlights:

Kawwali Song:

A soul-stirring performance that will captivate your senses.

Ghumar Rajasthan Folk Dance:

Immerse yourself in the colorful and traditional folk dance from the royal land of Rajasthan.

Kathak Mix Dance:

A blend of traditional and contemporary Kathak moves, showcasing the beauty of this classical dance form.

Kathak with Indian Song:

An expressive Kathak performance set to the tunes of melodious Indian songs.

Semi-Classic Dance with Bharatha Mix:

Experience the grace and charm of semi-classical dance infused with Bharatha elements.

Ghagra Dance:

A vibrant and energetic dance celebrating the rich culture of India.



30th November 2023

9.30 AM onwards

Location:

Diamond Jubilee Hall, Faculty of
Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

Don't miss this cultural extravaganza!
Free Admission for All!

More Information:

projectmangerinro@gs.pdn.ac.lk
+94 812 059 390

Organized by:

International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy













01st
Dec



Empowering Global Citizens: Shaping a Sustainable Future Amidst Climate Crisis

November 25 | December 01 | December 02

- ★ Trainer Training Program on Waste Management
- ★ Community Outreach Activity on Waste Management
- ★ Street Drama Script Writing Competition for Undergraduates
- ★ Poster Competition for Undergraduates
- ★ Art Competition for School Children
- ★ Training Workshop for School Children

Organized by Center for Environmental Sustainability
In collaboration with International Relations Office,
Faculty of Arts & Faculty of Science

Training Workshop for School children on “Empowering Global Citizens: Shaping a Sustainable Future Amidst Climate Crisis”

The Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES), jointly with the International Relations Office (InRO) of the University of Peradeniya, conducted a training workshop to commemorate the International Week 2023 of the University of Peradeniya. Nearly 130 schoolchildren and 10 school teachers from Mulgama Maha Vidyalaya, Gampola Baudhda Vidyalaya, and Gampola Naranwita Kanishta Vidyalaya attended the program held on December 1, 2023. Prof. (Mrs.) K.G.N. Nanayakkara, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Peradeniya; Dr. Chaminda Wijesundara, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya; and Dr. (Mrs.) Anushka Elangasinghe, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Peradeniya, respectively, conducted lectures on the themes of “Flowing Forward: Navigating Climate Change’s Impact on Water Resources,” “Sri Lanka’s Natural Treasures: A Journey through Biodiversity,” and “Clearing the Air: Understanding the Nexus of Climate Change and Air Pollution.”



The sessions were conducted at the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) and the EOE Pereira Theatre of the Faculty of Engineering. Dr. S.K. Weragoda and his staff led a guided tour of the Joint Research and Demonstration Center’s (JRDC) laboratories to conduct practical demonstrations of water quality testing and research.



The three schools received donations of tree seedlings to plant on their school lands. The CES, as one of the country's premier environmental organizations, is hosting these kinds of events to inspire students to adopt an environmentally conscious perspective and advance environmental sustainability.



Certificate Awarding Ceremony for Winners of Environmental Competitions and Conservation Leaders of the Regreen Hanatana Project

The Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Faculty Environmental Management Committees, and University Students, organizes a number of events with the goal of encouraging environmentally responsible behavior in the next generation. These include debates, contests for writing drama scripts, contests for creating environmental management proposals, competitions for creating posters, and competitions for drawing. This year, the CES arranged a drawing competition for schoolchildren at the Mulgama Maha Vidyalaya, Gampola, and the Faculty of Arts' Environmental Management Committee successfully organized a street drama script writing competition and a poster competition for university students. During an award ceremony held during the International Week 2023 of the University of Peradeniya, which was coordinated by the International Relations Office (InRO), the winners of these competitions were given certificates from the CES.

The ceremony was held successfully on 1st December 2023 at the auditorium of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) of the University of Peradeniya, with the participation of the Chief Guest, the acting Vice Chancellor of the University, the Deans of the Faculties, the Directors of the Postgraduate Institutes, the Director of the InRO, the Director and Deputy Directors of the CES, Environment Committee members of the Faculties of Arts and Science, and Academic Staff of the University.







Our Partners



सत्यमेव जयते

ASSISTANT HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
KANDY



Years of Establishment
Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy



Japan International
Cooperation Agency



Postgraduate Institute of Science
University of Peradeniya

CENTRE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY



Watch Programmes on YouTube



Innoguration Ceremony



Cultural Day Programme



Japanese Government Scholarships



International Week 2023



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE (InRO)
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
SRI LANKA

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