

# Newsletter

ISSUE | 03 | October 2023

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE (InRO)

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, SRI LANKA

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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.



Meeting with the Gomel State Medical University

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## Meeting with the HK Gaosheng Education Consultants Sdn Bhd

A virtual meeting between the HK Gaosheng Education Consultants Sdn Bhd, Malaysia and the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture was held on the 04th of July 2023 with the objective to discuss and establish strategies for enhancing international student recruitment efforts for master's and doctoral programs, as well as to explore opportunities for collaboration between China universities and the University of Peradeniya through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HK Gaosheng Education Consultants Sdn. Bhd. Further, the discussion aims to evaluate and enhance the experience of international exchange students in order to foster greater international cooperation and cultural exchange.



Professor C.M.B. Dematawewa has provided an overview of the courses offered by the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) and discussed potential collaborative opportunities. The team from HK Gaosheng Education Consultants Sdn Bhd, Malaysia, has expressed a keen interest in establishing further collaborations with PGIA. Further, InRO is currently awaiting a response from PGIA in order to commence the collaborative efforts. Mr. Li Zeyun, Director of HK Gaosheng Education Consultants Sdn Bhd, Malaysia, Dr. Lim Yi Jin, Marketing Manager, Ms. Chong Joyee, Solution Executive, Dr. Muhammad Suhaimi Bin Mohd Yusof has joined the meeting from the HK Gaosheng Education Consultants Sdn Bhd, Malaysia.

Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of the International Relations Office, Prof. C.M.B. Dematawewa, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture and the staff members of the InRO participated in the meeting.

## Meeting with the Pakistan Higher Education Commission

A virtual meeting between the Pakistan Higher Education Commission and the University of Peradeniya was held on the 19th of July 2023 at the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences.



The signing of the Document of Understanding between the University of Peradeniya and the Pakistan Higher Education Commission was discussed. The committee members of the establishment of the Centre of Asian Civilizations & Cultures at the University of Peradeniya have decided to send the clarification on the Document of Understanding (DOU) between the Pakistan Higher Education Commission (PHEC) and University of Peradeniya (UoP) and wait for the response from the Pakistan Higher Education Commission.

A team from Pakistan Higher Education, Mr. Jehanzeb Khan, Project Director and Mr. Muhammad Waqar Khan, Project Manager of the Pakistan Higher Education Commission joined in the meeting.

Prof. S.J.S. de Mel, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of International Relations Office, Prof. M.Z.M. Nafeel, Department of Arabic & Islamic Civilization, Faculty of Arts, Prof. A.Sarjoon, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts and the staff members of the InRO participated in the meeting.

# Russian Day of the University of Peradeniya

The Russian Day at the University of Peradeniya organized by the International Relation Office (InRO) in collaboration with the Russia House, Colombo was held on 27th of July 2023 at the University premises.



One of the key events of the Russian Day was the Visit of Madam Maria Popova to the Department of Classical Languages of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya to declare open its Coordination Unit of the Study of Modern Languages (CSML) in its new premises of the Kannangara Building inside the Faculty of Arts. The introduction to the Russian Language, as the initiation of the Russian Language course, was delivered by Ms. Tatyana Panditha at the seminar room of the Faculty of Arts.

The Chief Guest of the event Madam Maria Popova, the First Secretary of the Embassy of Russia in Colombo, and Director of the Russian House in Colombo who was received by the Vice- Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa at the venue. The Russian Day celebration was organized as an open ceremony where a large number of students witnessed many activities pertaining to Russian culture and the language. Madam Maria Popova, the First Secretary of the Russian Embassy and the Director of the Russian House, Mr. Buddhapriya Ramanayake, the Chief Executive Officer, Russian House in Colombo, Ms. Venurika Jayasinghe, the Educational and Public Relations Officer, Russian House in Colombo, Ms. Alexandra Shalaginova, the Accountant, Russian House in Colombo, Ms. Tatyana Panditha, the teacher of Russian Language were the distinguished participants of the event from the Russian Embassy.

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice- chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, the Deputy Vice- chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Deans of the Facilities, Directors of the Postgraduate Institutes, Directors of the Centers, academic and administrative staff and students have participated in the event.



An award winning Russian movie the “Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears” was screened at the Physiology Lecture Hall at the Faculty of Medicine in parallel to the Russian Day.



## Meeting with the Center of Environmental Sustainability for the International Week

Discussions for the International Week with the Center of Environmental Sustainability were held on the 14th of August 2023 at the Center of Environmental Sustainability.



The events for the International Week proposed by the Center of Environmental Sustainability and the budget plan for the event was discussed in the meeting. As a part of the event post international week event was planned as an information session and the field activity on waste management.

Prof. T. Hewawasam, the director and the staff of the Center of Environmental Sustainability, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, the Director of the International Relations Office and the staff members of the InRO participated in the meeting.

## Meeting with the Faculty of Science for the International Week

Discussions for the International Week with the Faculty of Science were held on the 14th of August 2023 at the Faculty of Science.

During the meeting, it was proposed that the inauguration ceremony for the “Geonomics” - Oxford Nanopore (including Personalized Medicine) conference, in collaboration with the PGIS, be included as part of the International Week, was planned to be scheduled on 29th of November 2023. Furthermore, the arrangements for the event and the budget plan were discussed in the meeting.

Dr. W.R.P. Wijesinghe, from the Faculty of Science, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, the Director of the International Relations Office and the staff members of the InRO have participated in both meetings.

## Meeting with the Regional Officer of DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service

A virtual meeting between the Regional Officer of DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service and the University of Peradeniya was held on the 17th of August 2023.

The DAADS scholarship opportunities for Masters and Ph.D. Degrees and the initiation of the German Language course at the University of Peradeniya were discussed. The regional officer has agreed to contact the Head of the Language Unit of the Goethe Institute to have a meeting to initiate the Language program at the University of Peradeniya. In addition, the Regional Officer has agreed to conduct an information session in International Week 2023.

Ms. Nimaya Manudewa the Regional Officer of DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service has joined the meeting.

Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of International Relations Office, Prof. R.Dassanayaka, Head of the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Ms.R.Jayaneththi, Department of History, Faculty of Arts and the staff members of the InRO participated in the meeting.

## PURSE 2023



The 2nd Peradeniya University Research Excellence Showcase organized by the University Research Council was held on the 29th of August 2023 at the Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology. The main purpose of this event was to showcase novel and cutting-edge research and locally developed solutions for national needs.



Leading researchers of the University of Peradeniya, key members of government organizations, company CEOs, and university research administrators participated in the event. InRO staff actively participated in the organizing process at the PURSE events.



### Meeting with Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

A virtual meeting between the Pakistan Higher Education Commission and the University of Peradeniya was held on the 31st of August 2023.



The primary focus of this meeting centered around a comprehensive review and discussion of the clarifications pertaining to the draft Document of Understanding (DoU), which had been previously submitted by the Pakistan Higher Education Commission during the last engagement. Further discussions regarding this will be undertaken by the committee of the establishment of centre of Asian Civilization and culture, in due course.

Prof. S.J.S. de Mel, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of International Relations Office, Prof. M.Z.M. Nafeel, Department of Arabic & Islamic Civilization, Faculty of Arts, Prof. Athambawa Sarjoon, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts has participated in the meeting.

### Meeting with the Gomel State Medical University

A round of discussion initiated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, W.M.T. Madhujith with, Prof. S.A. Anahkina, Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Gomel State Medical University was held on 1st of September 2023 at the Vice-Chancellors Office.



The primary focus of the discussion was on student exchange programs between the two institutions. During the meeting, Prof. S.A. Anahkina elaborated on the contributions made by Gomel University to Sri Lankan universities. It was agreed that further discussions regarding the student exchange programs would be conducted by the Faculty of Medicine. Following the meeting, arrangements were made for a faculty visit to the Faculty of Medicine as a means to continue and strengthen the collaboration. The Faculty of Medicine will communicate in this regard.



A team from Gomel University, including Prof. S.A. Anahkina, Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Gomel State Medical University, and a Sri Lankan graduate student from Gomel University participated in the meeting.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Vasanthi Pinto, the Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Prof. C.N.R.A Alles, the Director, of the International Relations Office, Dr. D.C.K.C Dissanayake from the Faculty of Medicine, and InRO staff, has participated in the event.



### **Meeting with the Kazan Federal University Department of Chemistry**

A virtual meeting between the Kazan Federal University, Russia was held on the 12th of September 2023. The objective of this meeting is to discuss the collaboration opportunities between both Universities.

Dr. Timirkhan Alishev, Vice-Rector for International Affairs has explained the degree program and the facilities of the Kazan Federal University. Prof. R.M.G. Rajapakse has explained the research works done by



the University of Peradeniya. The information that was sent by Kazan Federal University, Russia regarding a research conference has been distributed among related faculties of the University of Peradeniya.



Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage, H. E. the Ambassador, Mr. Chamila Jayarathna, Minister, Ms. Olessya Romanova, PA to Ambassador, Ms. Julia Belyaeva, Assistant/interpreter has participated in the meeting from the Embassy.

Dr. Timirkhan Alishev, Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Dr. Olga Vershinina, Director of the Department of External Affairs, Mrs. Emilia Espinal Rakhmankina, Head of International Events unit has participated from the Kazan Federal University (KFU), Russia.

Prof. R.M.G. Rajapakse, Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, Prof.C.N.R.A. Alles, Director, International Relations Office, the staff of the International Relations Office has participated from the University of Peradeniya.

## Meeting with the Director PGIS

A meeting regarding discussing the arrangements of the “Genomics” symposium on the Oxford Nanopore program Inauguration ceremony which is parallel to the International Week 2023 will be scheduled to be held on the 29th of November at the PGIS auditorium.

The meeting with Director PGIS was held on 18th of September 2023 at the Board room of PGIS with the participation of Prof. H.M.T.G.A. Pitawala, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Sciences (PGIS), Prof. C.N.R.A Alles, Director, International Relations Office, Dr. W.R.Priyanga Wijesinghe from the Faculty of Science, and the staff members of the InRO.

## Meeting with the Lobachevski State University of Nizhny Novgorod

A virtual meeting between the Lobachevski State University of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia and the Department of History, University of Peradeniya was held on the 18th of September 2023 with the objective of discussing collaboration opportunities.



The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage Her Excellency the Ambassador, Embassy of Russia and the Welcome message was presented by Mr. Alexandex Bednyy, the Vice-Rector from the University of Nizhny Novgorod.



The welcome message and the introduction to the University were delivered by Prof. C.N.R.A Alles, the Director of the International Relations Office at the University of Peradeniya. Presentation proposals for Cooperation from the University of Nizhny Novgorod were presented by Mr. Kemaev Konstantin, the Deputy Vice Rector and the presentation, proposals for cooperation from the University of Peradeniya were presented by Prof. Ramani Hettiarachchi, the Senior lecturer, Department of History. The draft agreements on cooperation academic exchange and the proposals for cooperation have been sent by the University of Nizhny Novgorod is undergoing on the Department of History, University of Peradeniya. The MoU that was sent by the Lobachevski State University of

Nizhny Novgorod, Russia is being processed under the Department of History.



Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage, H. E. the Ambassador, Mr. Chamila Jayarathna, Minister, Ms. Olessya Romanova, PA to Ambassador, Ms. Julia Belyaeva, Assistant/Interpreter joined the meeting from the Embassy of Russia.



Associate Professor Alexander Bednyy – Vice Rector, Kemaev Konstantin – Deputy Vice Rector, Lartceva Natalia – Specialist in International Relations participated in the meeting from the Lobachevski State University of Nizhny Novgorod (UNN), Russia.

Prof. Ramani Hettiarachchi, Senior lecturer from the Department of History, Prof.C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of the International Relations Office, and the staff of the International Relations Office have participated from the University of Peradeniya.



## Meeting with Goethe Institute, Colombo

A meeting between the Goethe Institute, Colombo was held on the 22nd of September 2023. The objectives of the meeting are to discuss the initiation of the German Language at the University of Peradeniya and the possibility of allocating teachers to teach the German language.



Mr. Rakitha has informed that there is a possibility to contact a teacher to teach the German Language and they will contact her to join with this. Further, they had mentioned the funding should be provided by the university side. The Department of History has expressed its disagreement with the proposal.



Mr.Stefan Winkler, Director, of Goethe Institute and Mr.Rakitha Karunaratne, Head of the Language Department, Goethe Institute participated in the meet-



ing from the Goethe Institute, Colombo.

Prof. K.M. Rohitha Dasanayaka, Head of the Department of History, Prof. Ramani Hettiarachchi from the Department of History, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director/International Relations Office, Rev. Dr. M. Sobhitha, Senior Lecturer, Department of History, Dr.Sumudu Dharmarathne, Senior Lecturer, from the Department of History the staff of the International Relations Office has participated from the University of Peradeniya.



The event was organized by the Open University of Sri Lanka (from the ERASMUS grant). Joint master's degree program was introduced with the collaboration of the University of Peradeniya, the University of Moratuwa, the University of Ruhuna and the Open University of Sri Lanka.

The administrative staff of four universities, and the members from the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden has participated in the meeting. Ms.Diyathi Jayaweera, the Project Manager InRO has participated the event.

## **Visit of the High Commissioner for Canada in Sri Lanka and Maldives**

His Excellency Eric Walsh, the High Commissioner for Canada in Sri Lanka and the Maldives visited the University of Peradeniya on the 25th of September 2023. The visit was meticulously planned and encompassed a series of key engagements, including a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, an interaction with the Alumni Association, and an exploration of the university's main library.

During the visit, His Excellency Eric Walsh participated in a meeting at the Vice-Chancellor's office. The



meeting was initiated by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa delivered a comprehensive introduction to the university. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor has mentioned the facilities and support services available to international students at the University of Peradeniya.



His Excellency Eric Walsh, the High Commissioner for Canada in Sri Lanka and Maldives, and Ms. Indirani Jayawardena, the Political Officer, High Commission of Canada participated in the event.

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of International Relations Office, and the staff members of International Relations Office of the University of Peradeniya, participated in the meeting from the University of Peradeniya.

This visit served as a significant step in strengthening the ties between the University of Peradeniya and Canada, fostering potential collaborations, and enhancing international connections for both institutions.



Prof. Chandra Wickramasinghe participated as Chief guest of the event and the leading researchers of the University of Peradeniya, the organizing committee from the University Research Council participated in the event. The staff members of the International Relations Office (InRO) were actively engaged in the organizational aspects of the iPURSE event.

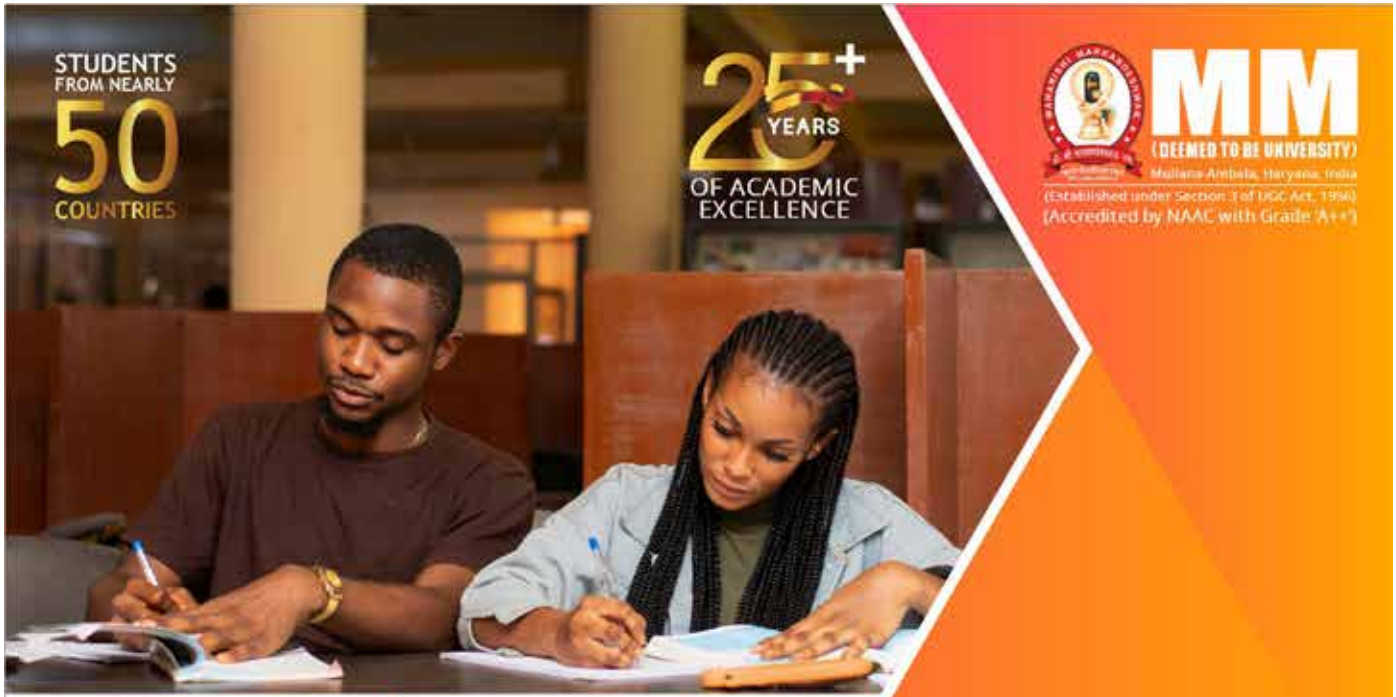


### **iPURSE 2023**

The Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (iPURSE) organized by the University Research Council was held on 20th September 2023 at the Post-graduate Institute of Science, Auditorium, with the objective is to bring together eminent researchers of all disciplines, providing them with a platform to disseminate research findings, exchange contemporary knowledge and build partnerships and collaborations to advance frontiers of knowledge for sustainability of all life on earth.



# Exchange Programmes



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# Opportunities for Ph.D. program

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# Scholarships Opportunities

## Queen-Elizabeth-Commonwealth-scholarships

Applications are now closed and will reopen in November 2023.



The Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships (QECS) offer a unique opportunity to study a two-year Master's degree in a low or middle-income Commonwealth country.

Aimed at students who are committed to creating change in their communities, the scholarships are a life-changing opportunity to experience a new country and culture, to broaden horizons, and to build a global network that will last a lifetime.

Through cultural exchange and academic collaboration, Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholars help bring about positive change and find solutions to the shared challenges we face - both in their home countries and those that host them. As an active part of the Commonwealth network, scholars will help shape its future.

Each year there are two opportunities to apply for QECS – cycle 1 opens in November/December and cycle 2 opens in March/April. You only need to submit one application, but you are welcome to apply more than once if there is another country you are interested in studying in.

### What does the scholarship cover?

- Fully-funded tuition fees
- Living allowance (stipend) for duration of award
- Return economy flights to host country
- One-off arrival allowance
- Research Support Grant (on request only; subject to approval)

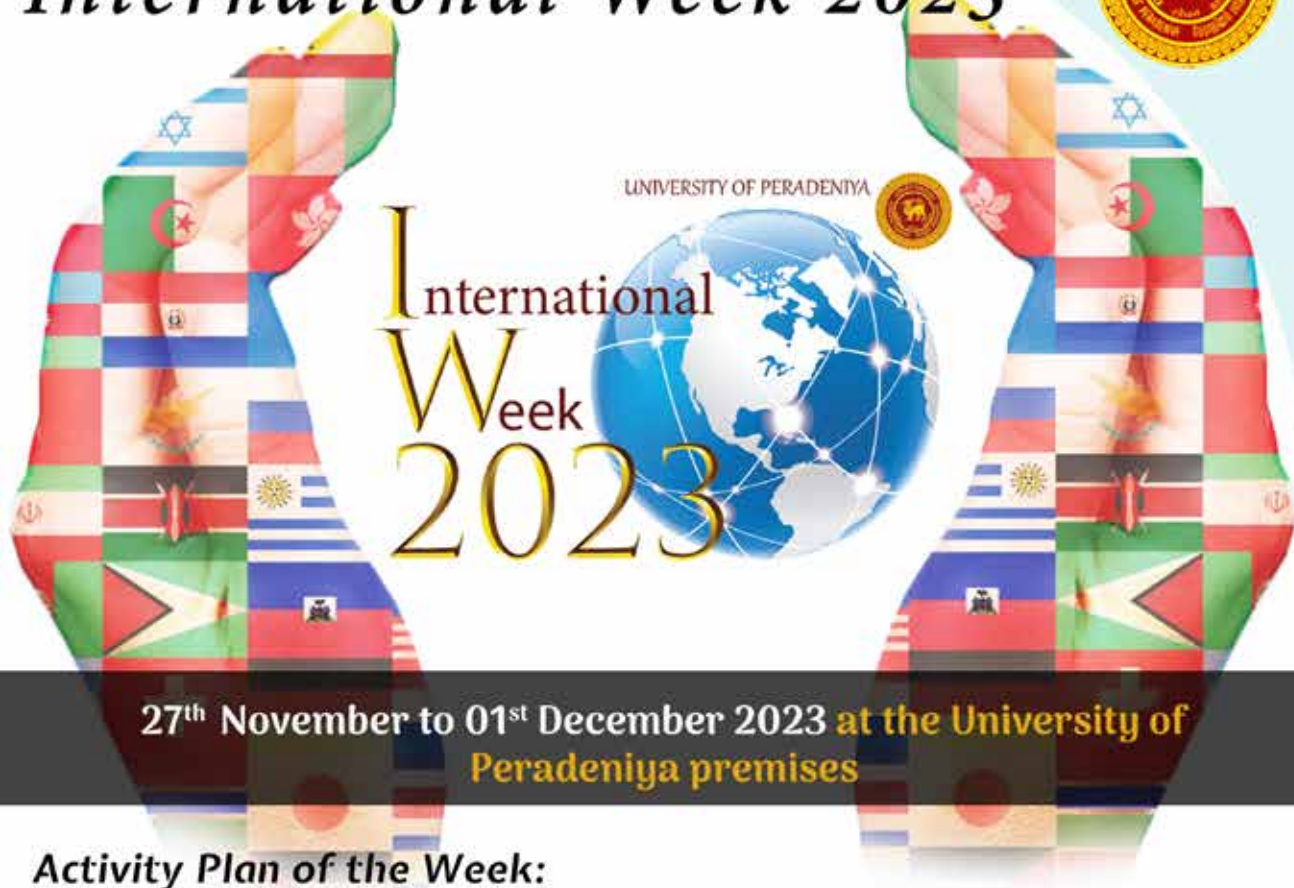
We strongly advise all applicants to read the the application guidance and FAQs pages below before starting an application.

[Application guidance](#)

[Application FAQs](#)



# International Week 2023



27<sup>th</sup> November to 01<sup>st</sup> December 2023 at the University of Peradeniya premises

## Activity Plan of the Week:

### Monday - 27<sup>th</sup> November

Inauguration Ceremony

### Tuesday - 28<sup>th</sup> November

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

### Wednesday - 29<sup>th</sup> November

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

### Thursday - 30<sup>th</sup> November

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

### Friday- 01<sup>st</sup> 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://inro.pdn.ac.lk/lw\\_2023/index.php](https://inro.pdn.ac.lk/lw_2023/index.php)



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