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PGIS NEWS

Activities and Progress of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

*The Pioneer
Postgraduate
Institute of
Sri Lanka*

2025



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01. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ICCES) - 2025

12/09/2025

The 4th International Conference of the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (ICCES) 2025, jointly organized by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs of the Central Province, was successfully held as a hybrid event on 12th September, 2025, at the



Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya. A total of 65 abstracts were presented at the conference, spanning three key thematic areas that highlight the multifaceted nature of environmental sustainability: Environmental Science, Technology, and Pollution Control; Biodiversity, Conservation, and Ecology; and Climate Adaptation, Green Innovations, and Sustainable Governance.

The closing ceremony of the conference was graced by Ms. Saranya V.S., Assistant High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka (Kandy), who attended as the Chief Guest. Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Acting Vice - Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, participated as the Guest of Honor. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Tilak Hewawasam,



Chairman of the Central Environmental Authority, on the theme “Environmental Protection versus Sustainable Living: Challenges for Environmental Regulatory Agencies.” Mr. Chaminda Abeyaratne, Assistant Director at the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, represented the Central Provincial Council at the ceremony.

01. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ICCES) - 2025

12/09/2025



During the event, student societies involved in the PET recycling initiative-jointly implemented by Ceylon Cold Stores (CCS) and the Centre for Environmental Sustainability-were recognized for their contributions. Mr. Amila Sirimanne, Senior Manager of Regulatory Affairs at CCS, awarded cheques to the best-performing student societies. A special issue of the

International Journal of Environmental Issues (IJEI), featuring research articles presented at ICCES 2023, was officially launched by Prof. Namal Priyantha, Editor-in-Chief. Additionally, a new issue of Sobha magazine, published by the Central Provincial Council and featuring articles by ICCES 2025 presenters and other scholars, was launched by Mr. Chaminda Abeyaratne.



Written by:
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02. PGIS RESCON 2025 - 4TH PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP: EMERGING TRENDS OF CLEAN ENERGY & OPPORTUNITIES OF HIGHER STUDIES IN EUROPE

17/09/2025

The Pre-RESCON 4th workshop, organized as part of the preparatory programme for RESCON 2025, was successfully held on 17th September, 2025 from 2.00 pm onwards at the Conference Hall of the PGIS, with the participation of nearly 80 attendees including undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic staff, early-career researchers, and members of the public.

The workshop was conducted by Professor Upul Wijayantha, who currently serves as the Head of the Hydrogen Integration Research Centre at the Cranfield Hydrogen Integration Incubator (CH2i) and Co-Director of the EPSRC EnerHy CDT at Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Loughborough University, UK. The session was delivered



under the theme “30 Years of a Butterfly Journey in Clean Energy Research: Emerging Trends, Opportunities, and Challenges for the Young Generation in Higher Studies.”

The programme unfolded in two interlinked sessions. In the first session, Professor Wijayantha provided an engaging overview of his 3-decade academic journey in clean energy research, highlighting key milestones, emerging global trends, and future directions, particularly in hydrogen integration and sustainable energy systems. The presentation was carefully structured to appeal to both subject specialists and a wider interdisciplinary audience.

The 2nd session focused on opportunities and challenges faced by the younger generation in pursuing higher studies and research careers. Prof. Wijayantha discussed international research pathways, funding opportunities, interdisciplinary collaboration, and strategic career planning, followed by an interactive discussion with participants. The workshop



attracted strong engagement and generated positive feedback, with participants appreciating the practical insights into global clean energy research and academic career development.

02. PGIS RESCON 2025 - 4TH PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP: EMERGING TRENDS OF CLEAN ENERGY & OPPORTUNITIES OF HIGHER STUDIES IN EUROPE

17/09/2025



The event also highlighted Professor Wijayantha's ongoing commitment to supporting Professor Wijendra Bandara of University of Peradeniya/current Chairman of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA), in the development of an energy-focused research proposal relevant to Sri Lanka. Overall, the 4th Pre-RESCON workshop was highly successful, contributing meaningfully to the academic enrichment objectives of the Pre-RESCON programme of RESCON 2025.



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03. PGIS RESCON 2025 - 5TH PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: TRANSFORMING CROP BREEDING WITH TECHNOLOGY AND ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENT VARIETIES

22/09/2025



The 5th Pre-RESCON Workshop, themed “Transforming Crop Breeding with Technology and Adaptive Strategies for Resilient Varieties,” was successfully held on 22nd September, 2025 at the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya. The event brought together a diverse group of researchers, breeders, technologists, policy-makers, and postgraduate students for a day of engaging discussions on how emerging technologies can reshape crop breeding pipelines to meet the challenges posed by climate change.

The inauguration ceremony commenced with the lighting of the oil lamp, followed by opening remarks by Dr. H. A. C. K. Ariyaratna, Workshop Coordinator; Prof. M. Y. U. Ganehenege, Congress Chair of RESCON 2025; Prof. R. G. S. C. Rajapakse, Dean of the Faculty of Science; and Prof. B. M. N. W. B. Balasooriya, Director of PGIS. The workshop featured a keynote address by Dr. Miceal Francki, who highlighted the pivotal role of modern genomic and data-driven tools in developing stress-tolerant crop varieties for future food security.



Throughout the day, participants engaged in technical sessions and panel discussions that explored key themes such as the integration of technology in rice breeding workflows, breeding for climate resilience and abiotic stress tolerance, and policy frameworks to support technology adoption. The workshop concluded with a panel discussion and closing ceremony, where participants shared insights and formulated key recommendations for enhancing national breeding programs through technological innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration.

03. PGIS RESCON 2025 5TH PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP: TRANSFORMING CROP BREEDING WITH TECHNOLOGY AND ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENT VARIETIES

22/09/2025



Organized under the banner of PGIS RESCON 2025, the workshop served as an inspiring prelude to the main conference, reaffirming RESCON's mission to promote research excellence and innovation in science for sustainable development.

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04. MICROBES WITHOUT BORDERS: A HYBRID WORKSHOP ON MICROBIAL ECOLOGY AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

16/10/2025

The event was successfully held on 16th October, 2025 at the PGIS Conference Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



A collaborative workshop between the Joint Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Yamaguchi University, and the Board of Study in Environmental Science, Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya—funded by the Public Promoting Association (Kura Foundation)—was successfully held at the PGIS Conference Hall. The event was expertly coordinated by Prof. Sudharma Yatigammana.

The objective of the workshop was to provide participants with new learning opportunities to share cutting-edge knowledge and techniques. It also aimed to serve as a bridge between researchers in Japan and Sri Lanka, building a network with experts in the field of environmental research in Sri Lanka, and serve as the beginning of future joint research.

The session featured a lineup of distinguished speakers who shared their expertise on a range of environmental and ecological topics:

1. Prof. Kasthuri Vekateswaran (Ph.D., Hiroshima University, Japan)
Senior Research assistant, NASA – Jet propulsion laboratory, California Institute of Technology, USA
Talk: "Microbes in Space"
2. Prof. R.S. Kalupahana (Ph.D., University of Cambridge, UK)
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya
Talk: "Antimicrobial resistance as a borderless microbial phenomenon: Implications for global health security"
3. Prof. Shinji Yamasaki (Ph.D., Kyoto University, Japan)
Professor, Graduate School of Veterinary Science, Osaka Metropolitan University
Talk: "How to control Zoonosis: The need for a One health approach"

04. MICROBES WITHOUT BORDERS: A HYBRID WORKSHOP ON MICROBIAL ECOLOGY AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH (CONTD.)

16/10/2025

4. Dr. Thusitha Karunaratna (Ph.D., University of London, UK)

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya

Talk: "Avian Influenza H9N2 virus: The silent trojan horse of the next influenza pandemic"

5. Assistant Prof. Ishara Perera (Ph.D., Tohoku University, Japan)

Assistant Professor, One Welfare International Research Center, Joint School of Veterinary Medicine, Yamaguchi University

Talk: "Networks in the water column: Linking microbes, plankton and global change"

About 50 undergraduate, postgraduate researchers and faculty members have attended the event and it fostered high engagement and dynamic discussions, particularly sparked by the opening talk on microbes in space. Participants gained a stronger multidisciplinary understanding of how microbial science connects to global health, zoonotic disease control, antimicrobial resistance, and ecosystem change. The sessions enhanced awareness of emerging health threats while encouraging knowledge exchange across career stages. Importantly, the workshop strengthened networking among researchers and students, inspiring interest in future collaborations between Sri Lanka and Japan and motivating attendees to pursue further research in microbiology, infectious disease surveillance, and One Health-related fields.

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05. SYMPOSIUM ON MICRO-PLASTIC POLLUTION (SYMP 2025)- PERSISTENCE, MOBILITY & POTENTIAL IMPACTS

24/10/2025



Micro plastics have a high probability of ingestion, incorporation into, and accumulation in the bodies and tissues of many organisms. Over time, micro plastics and nano-plastics make their way into lakes, rivers and oceans, eventually contaminating our food and water. It has been revealed that humans ingest many thousands of microplastic particles every year, which is equivalent to several grams a week.

The presence of microplastics in the environment has been steadily increased since 2019. Although microplastics are highly hazardous, there is still a lack of attention, understanding or remedial measures taken on this incoming severe threat.



Having realized the potential risk, the Board of Study in Environmental Science of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, has conducted for the second consecutive year the symposium on 'Microplastic Pollution' (SYMP 2025) on the 24th of October, 2025 at the PGIS.

The major objective of the Symposium was to share the current findings on various aspects of microplastics: Persistence, mobility, and impacts. The Keynote address was delivered by the Chairperson of the Marine Environment Protection council (MEPC), Prof. Sewwandi Jayakody.

05. SYMPOSIUM ON MICRO-PLASTIC POLLUTION (SYMP 2025)- PERSISTENCE, MOBILITY & POTENTIAL IMPACTS (CONTD.)

24/10/2025

In addition to the keynote speech, there was a fruitful panel discussion with the participation of Prof. Tilak Hewawasam (Chairman of the Central Environmental Authority), Mr. Nalin Manapperuma (Chief Executive Officer, Waste Management Authority, Western Province), Prof. M. P. Deeyamulla (Senior Professor Department of Chemistry, University of Kelaniya), and Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna (Senior Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya). There were 22 research presentations delivered by various academic and research institutions in 4 technical sessions.

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06. PGIS RESCON 2025 – SYNERGY IN SCIENCE: UNITING DISCIPLINES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

07-08/11/2025

The 12th Annual Research Congress of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, (RESCON 2025) was successfully held on 7th and 8th November 2025, reaffirming PGIS's longstanding commitment to fostering interdisciplinary research, innovation, and postgraduate education in Sri Lanka. Conducted under the theme "Synergy in Science: Uniting



disciplines for a Better Tomorrow," the congress brought together postgraduate researchers, academics, scientists, and professionals from Sri Lanka and overseas to showcase research findings, exchange ideas, and build collaborative networks. The event attracted around 600 participants and featured around 246 research presentations in oral and poster formats across a wide range of scientific disciplines.



Organized by the Board of Study in Chemical Sciences, RESCON 2025 placed special emphasis on the Physical Sciences, reflecting PGIS's growing research capacity in this area. Presentations highlighted advances in renewable energy, nanotechnology, photochemistry, quantum science, analytical chemistry, and functional materials. Many studies demonstrated strong links between fundamental scientific research and real-world applications, particularly in addressing environmental sustainability, energy challenges, and industrial innovation.

The inauguration ceremony on 7th November, 2025 was graced by Prof. Jayantha Gunaratne, Senior Principal Investigator at A*STAR, IMCB, NSU, Singapore, who served as the Chief Guest. The congress also featured two Keynote Addresses delivered by Prof. Claudio Verani, Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of Windsor, Canada, and Prof. Veranja Karunaratne, Vice-Chancellor of ESOF University. Their addresses provided global perspectives on modern science education, research innovation, and the value of cross-disciplinary collaboration. Adding further depth to the scientific programme, Professor Jayantha Gunaratne and Dr. Dushyanthi Dissanayake



delivered Plenary Lectures, offering insights into emerging research directions and their implications for sustainable scientific development.

06. PGIS RESCON 2025 – SYNERGY IN SCIENCE: UNITING DISCIPLINES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW (CONTD.)

07-08/11/2025



RESCON 2025 maintained its strong multidisciplinary character, with research presented under six broad thematic areas: AI in Natural Sciences and Industrial Applications; Earth and Environmental Sciences; ICT; Life Sciences; Mathematics and Statistics; Physical Sciences; and Science Education. The congress provided a vibrant platform for interaction among researchers

from universities, research institutes, and industry, strengthening opportunities for future collaborative research and knowledge transfer.

In addition to the main congress, a series of five pre-conference workshops were conducted successfully in the lead-up to RESCON 2025. These workshops provided hands-on training, academic guidance, and exposure to global scientific perspectives, benefiting both students and academic staff. Internationally recognized experts led sessions on topics including brain health and neuroplasticity, navigating academic challenges, graduate studies and effective statement-of-purpose writing, climate-resilient crop breeding, and emerging trends in clean energy and higher study opportunities in Europe. Together, these workshops enriched the overall RESCON experience and underscored PGIS's role in capacity building and skills development within the scientific community.



The congress was held under the leadership of Professor Manawadavi Ganehenege, Chair of RESCON 2025, with guidance from the Director of PGIS, Professor Nanda Balasooriya. As RESCON marked its twelfth successful year, the event reinforced PGIS's position as Sri Lanka's pioneering institute for postgraduate science education and research. RESCON 2025 concluded as a

highly successful academic event, strengthening PGIS's vision of nurturing scientific excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, and global engagement in research.

06. PGIS RESCON 2025 – SYNERGY IN SCIENCE: UNITING DISCIPLINES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW (CONTD.)

07-08/11/2025



The organisers extend their sincere appreciation to all keynote, plenary, and invited speakers, session chairs, reviewers, and presenters for their valuable contributions to the scientific programme. Special thanks are due to the Board of Study in Chemical Sciences, the Organising Committee and Sub-Committees, academic and administrative staff of PGIS,

student volunteers, sponsors, and institutional partners whose commitment and support were instrumental in the successful delivery of the congress. RESCON 2025 thus concluded as a vibrant academic forum, further strengthening PGIS's role in advancing interdisciplinary research, postgraduate training, and scientific excellence in Sri Lanka.

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Image Courtesy by:
[99 Monkeys Social Jungle](#)



07. 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA SCIENCE & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (DS & AI 2025): FOSTERING REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

19-21/12/2025



The 3rd International Conference on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (DS&AI 2025), held from 19–21 November 2025 at the Joint Research and Demonstration Centre, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, serves as a key platform for advancing research, innovation, and collaboration in data science and artificial intelligence across the Southeast Asian

region. The conference is jointly organized by the Department of Statistics and Computer Science, University of Peradeniya; the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya; and the Department of Statistics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The conference provided a vital forum for researchers and practitioners from both developed and developing countries to exchange ideas, share expertise, and engage with the latest advances in data science and artificial intelligence. The first two conferences were successfully held in Bangkok, Thailand (2023), and Medan, Indonesia (2024), each making a meaningful contribution to strengthening the regional data science and AI community. With a strong focus on capacity building and applied research, DS&AI 2025 stimulated local interest, promoted innovation, and encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration across data science and AI. The conference also fostered partnerships among academics,



industry professionals, and policymakers, supporting the development of innovative, regionally relevant solutions. This year's event has attracted participants from Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Portugal, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, reflecting its growing international recognition and impact.

Reflecting its prestige, DS&AI 2025 received an impressive 92 submissions from around the world. Each paper underwent a rigorous review process conducted by a dedicated panel of international Program Committee members. From these, 22 high-quality papers were selected for presentation, resulting in a competitive acceptance rate of 24%.

07. 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA SCIENCE & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (DS & AI 2025): FOSTERING REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION (CONTD.)

19-21/12/2025

The accepted papers span a diverse range of cutting-edge areas in data science and artificial intelligence, including Large Language Models and Advanced Natural Language Processing, Explainable AI and Bias Detection, Time Series Forecasting and Predictive Modeling, and Computer Vision and Deep Learning.



The main organizing Committee comprised a distinguished team of academics and professionals representing leading institutions across the region and beyond. The committee was led by Prof. Chutiporn Anutariya (School of Engineering and



Technology, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand), Prof. Dr. Marcello Bonsangue (LIACS, Leiden University, the Netherlands), Prof. Amalka Pinidiyaarachchi (Department of Statistics and Computer Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka), Dr. Hakim Usoof (Department of Statistics and Computer Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka), and Prof. T. G. I. Fernando (Faculty

of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka), who served as Program Committee Co-Chairpersons. Dr. Chitsutha Soomlek (Khon Kaen University, Thailand) contributed as Publicity Chair, while Dr. Hemalika Abeysundara and Dr. Lakshika Nawarathna (Department of Statistics and Computer Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka) served as Conference Co-Secretaries. The committee was further supported by the dedicated Conveners of the various sub-committees, whose collective efforts ensured the successful planning and execution of the conference.



The conference was graced by Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, as the Chief Guest. In his address, he highlighted the growing importance of data science and artificial intelligence in driving academic excellence, innovation, and national development, and emphasized the role of universities in fostering interdisciplinary research and global collaboration.

07. 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA SCIENCE & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (DS & AI 2025): FOSTERING REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION (CONTD.)

19-21/12/2025



The conference featured four eminent keynote speakers who shared their expertise on the evolving landscape of AI. Dr. Romesh Ranawana (Dialog Axiata PLC & Chairman, National AI Strategy Committee of Sri Lanka) delivered a keynote titled “Beyond the Hype: Creating Impact with AI,” exploring how AI can drive real-world progress. Prof. Teeradaj Racharak (Tohoku University, Japan) presented “Towards Verifiable and Trustable AI from Multiple Perspectives,” emphasizing the importance of reliability and ethics in AI systems. Prof. Mahesan Niranjana (University of Southampton, UK) discussed “Machine Learning in Biomedical Problems,” highlighting the transformative role of AI in healthcare research. Dr. Dilrukshi Gamage (University of Colombo School of Computing, Sri Lanka) spoke on “Human-Centered Pathways for AI and Machine Learning,” underscoring the importance of designing AI technologies that prioritize human values and well-being.

In addition to the main conference, a series of pre and post-conference workshops were offered to participants hands-on learning experiences led by international experts. These include Collaborative Learning in Computer Science Higher Education: Tips, Tricks, and Tools by Prof. Alexandra Blank (Leiden University, The Netherlands); Computational Biology: Predicting Structure and Function of Proteins by Prof. Mahesan Niranjana (University of Southampton, UK)

and Dr. Rupika Wijesinghe (University of Colombo School of Computing, Sri Lanka); and Future of Data Scientists and Statisticians with the Development of AI, organized in collaboration with the International Statistical Institute (ISI), featuring Prof. Nalini Ravishanker (University of Connecticut, President-Elect, ISI 2025–2027), Prof. David Banks (Duke University, USA), and Prof. Elisabetta Carfagna (University of Bologna, Italy).

07. 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA SCIENCE & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (DS & AI 2025): FOSTERING REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION (CONTD.)

19-21/12/2025

A special session by Janashakthi Insurance on Personal Branding was also held, helping participants strengthen their professional identity in a data-driven job market. As part of the conference program, participants took part in a cultural excursion to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, providing an opportunity to experience Sri Lanka's rich cultural and religious heritage and to foster informal interaction among delegates. In addition, the conference dinner was held at The Grand Kandyan Hotel, offering a relaxed setting for networking and strengthening professional connections, while further enriching the overall conference experience through cultural appreciation and social engagement.



The proceedings from DS&AI 2025 is published in Springer's Communications in Computer and Information Science (CCIS, volume 2726) series, further reinforcing the conference's reputation as a credible platform for high-quality research dissemination. As researchers, educators, and professionals gathered in Peradeniya to collaborate and innovate, the event inspired

meaningful discussions, forged new partnerships, and paved the way for impactful research addressing both global and regional challenges. For more information, visit the official conference website: <https://icdsai.pdn.ac.lk/>.



07. 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA SCIENCE & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (DS & AI 2025): FOSTERING REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION (CONTD.)

19-21/12/2025



Overall, DS&AI 2025 was a highly successful event, marked by strong international participation, high-quality scholarly discourse, and meaningful academic and professional engagement. The conference significantly enhanced the University of Peradeniya's standing as a leading hub for research and innovation in data science and artificial intelligence, strengthening its global academic networks and reaffirming its commitment to advancing cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research with regional and international impact.



Prepared by :
The Organizing Committee of 3rd International Conference on Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (DS & AI 2025)



08. 10TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF WATER QUALITY AND HUMAN HEALTH: CHALLENGES AHEAD

21-22/11/2025



The 10th International Symposium on Water Quality and Human Health: Challenges Ahead was successfully held on 21st and 22nd November 2025 at the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, bringing together researchers, academics, professionals, and postgraduate students to discuss critical issues related to water quality, pollution,

treatment, aquatic biology, and human health. The two-day symposium attracted around one hundred registered participants and featured with 46 oral presentations and 10 posters presentations delivered across multiple parallel technical sessions, reflecting the growing national and international relevance of water-related research.

The symposium commenced with the Inauguration Ceremony held on the morning of Friday, 21st November 2025, at the PGIS Auditorium. The opening session included the lighting of the



traditional oil lamp, followed by addresses from Professor N. W. B. Balasooriya, Director of PGIS; Professor R. G. S. C. Rajapakse, Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya; Professor Namal Priyantha, Chairman of the Board of Study in Environmental Science; and Professor S. K. Yatigammana, Symposium Chairperson. The ceremony was graced by the Guest of Honor, Professor Pathmalal M. Manage, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri

Jayawardanepura, and Professor Ranjith Pallegama, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

21-22/11/2025



The inaugural proceedings were followed by the Keynote Address by the Chief Guest, Professor Masamoto Tafu, Professor in Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at the National Institute of Technology, Toyama, Japan, who highlighted contemporary scientific challenges and innovations related to water quality and treatment technologies.



The scientific program comprised a series of technical, keynote, and plenary sessions conducted over two days. In addition to the keynote address, the symposium featured plenary lectures



delivered by Professor Udaya Ralapanawa, Professor Fumito Maruyama, Dr. Thusitha Karunaratna, and Dr. Subashini

Gunathilake, each offering multidisciplinary perspectives that connect water, environmental health, and applied research.

Technical sessions were organized under five major thematic areas—Water Quality, Water Pollution, Water Treatment, Human Health, and Aquatic Biology—with parallel sessions facilitating in-depth discussion of diverse research topics including groundwater quality, CKDu, wastewater treatment, microplastic pollution, aquatic toxicology and ecosystem health.



21-22/11/2025

The symposium provided a dynamic platform for scholarly exchange, enabling presenters and participants to engage in scientific discussions. Active participation throughout the sessions reflected the relevance of the research presented and the urgency of addressing emerging challenges related to water resources and human health. The symposium concluded on Saturday, 22nd November 2025, with a panel discussion emphasizing the need for integrated, science-based approaches to current and emerging water-related challenges.

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09. PRE-HOSPITAL CARE (FIRST AID) TRAINING PROGRAMME

11/12/2025

Organized by Safety Committee of PGIS in collaboration with St. John Ambulance Association & Brigade, Sri Lanka



In a proactive initiative to enhance staff safety and emergency preparedness, the Safety Committee of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) organized a one-day First-Aid Training Programme in collaboration with the St. John Ambulance Association & Brigade, Sri Lanka. The programme was conducted on 11th December, 2025 at PGIS, with the participation of 30 staff members.

The primary objective of the workshop was to equip PGIS staff with essential first-aid knowledge and practical skills relevant to an academic and laboratory-based environment. The training was conducted by Mr. Ajith Dissanayake, Administrative Secretary (Central Province), St. John Ambulance Association & Brigade, Kandy, and effectively combined theoretical instruction with hands-on practical demonstrations.



Participants engaged in simulated emergency scenarios ranging from minor injuries to more serious incidents, enabling them to apply first-aid techniques in a controlled setting. The interactive nature of the programme enhanced confidence and preparedness among participants.

09. PRE-HOSPITAL CARE (FIRST AID) TRAINING PROGRAMME (CONTD.)

11/12/2025



Upon successful completion, participants are eligible to receive certificates endorsed by the St. John Ambulance Association & Brigade. Feedback from participants highlighted the practical relevance of the training and its value in strengthening their ability to respond effectively to emergencies both within the workplace and in daily life.

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