



CINEC
CAMPUS
Beyond A Graduate



NEWSLETTER

CINEC CAMPUS

2022/23

FEBRUARY - MAY

This Newsletter Covers the Significant Activities of the CINEC Campus
from 01st February to 31st May 2023



KEY NEWS

OPEN DAY

CINEC hosted its annual Open Day on the 25th of February 2023, to showcase the opportunities available to prospective students as they explored exciting future career pathways. The Open Day was a platform to witness the Institute's academic offerings, international transfer options and pathways, state of the art infrastructure facilities and laboratories, future employment opportunities, and student engagement activities aimed at nurturing to produce a "Beyond a Graduate". The day started off with a general address conducted for prospective students and parents followed by a physical campus tour. Throughout the day students were able to directly get in touch with Faculty Deans and Senior Academic Staff to get detailed information regarding their interested study programmes and experience CINEC first-hand. The event also showcased academic research opportunities and some of the latest student projects, activities across all Faculties while enjoying the entertainment provided by the CINEC Student Association, CINEC student Media Circle and the Rotaract Club of CINEC.



CINEC marked a significant record with the highest number of registrations for the Degree Pathway Programme (DPP) pending results, leading to Diploma, Higher Diploma and Degree Programmes with the approval of Ministry of Education and affiliated top ranked universities in the fields of Maritime, Engineering, Management, Health Sciences, Humanities & Education, Information Technology and Aviation.



The collective effort of all staff members saw CINEC penetrating the hearts and minds of those visitors, an impression which will be carried to the society positioning CINEC as a unique non state higher education institute with such diversity, quality, stability, and value.



Senior Consultant of CINEC, Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe addressed the audience with an insightful discussion and engaging presentation where students were able to gain valuable insights of the programmes conducted at CINEC as well as CINEC's academic and social culture. Students were given a glimpse of the exciting world of their chosen field and were inspired to pursue future careers. Two final year students also shared their CINEC experiences and encouraged the prospective students. The Session was graced by Deans, and respective Heads of faculties, and alumni.





EDUCATION

THE WORKSHOPS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE CINEC INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT

Among the various places at the CINEC Campus, the workshop is one of the places that cannot be missed, where the students in various engineering departments of the university develop and improve the required industrial technical and practical skills. Practical training related to courses related to welding, engines, and lathe machines is given to students coming to other courses at CINEC.



It is a special feature that the university starts with the workshops, and all those who pass O/L can apply for the related courses. If the duration of the course is mentioned here, the Marine Welder Fitter course approved by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Aviation is three months, and other courses are short courses.

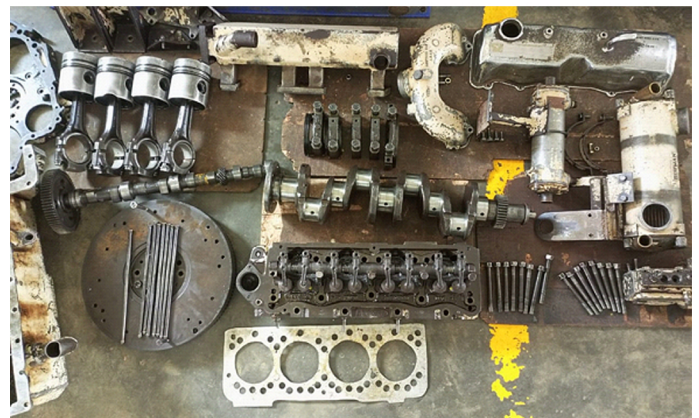
The two main faculties that provide practical training here are engineering technology and marine engineering, and mainly, marine students have been targeted. So far, eight lecturers have been engaged in teaching activities. There are two instructors, one visiting lecturer in the welding department, and three visiting instructors, two lecturers in the engine department. Lectures are held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and consist of two sessions. Students testify that they get great guidance from the lecturers.



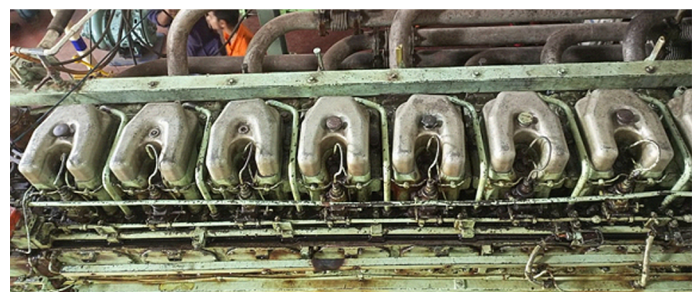
So far this year, more than 1,000 students have been able to receive practical training. Considering the space of these workshops, 60 students can take part in the welding workshop, 30 students in the lathe machine workshop, and 30 students in the engine workshop.



Upon completion of this training, students are awarded a valuable Certificate of Welder Performance Qualification issued by Lloyd's Register. It is designed so that a welder can be qualified in a way that the entire world accepts the ISO system.



To the students who are waiting to join the courses, Mr. Janaka Dissanayake, the head of the department, said that joining such courses was a good investment in the future of students.



FUNDRAISERS TAKE PLACE ON THE CINEC CAMPUS

Fundraisers from all the faculties of the CINEC Campus took place in the month of April. Food festivals, gaming stalls, second-hand book stalls, and film weeks were organized by the undergraduates. The Faculty of Engineering successfully held a food fiesta named "Snack Attack" on April 3rd. On the 26th of April, the Department of English hosted "Kadde Poth Kade," a secondhand book stall, and starting from the 24th of April to the 28th of April, a film week was organized by the same department.



MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES STUDENTS TO COLOMBO HARBOUR

Undergraduates of the management and social sciences visited Colombo Harbour on February 10 for a field visit. The students were able to experience some of the activities at Colombo Port. A large number of students from the faculty participated.



A FIELD VISIT TO THE MAS-KREEDA CAMPUS



A visit to the MAS-Kreeda Campus, Biyagama, was organized on the 15th of March by the MAS-CINEC collaborative research center for the students and academic staff who are contributing to the collaborative research projects for the year 2023. The program included a discussion on the research project topics and a factory tour for the attendees to obtain a better understanding of their respective project areas. Seven students and six academic staff members participated, and the representatives of MAS-Kreeda extended their unreserved support in making this visit a success.

NEW PROGRAMS BEGIN FOR SEAFARERS

The CINEC Campus has started new programs named Basic Training for Service on Ships Subject to the IGF Code and Advance Training for Service on Ships Subject to the IGF Code programs for seafarers.



CINEC SIMULATOR RESEARCH TEAM RECOGNIZED FOR CREATING NEW SIMULATOR ENVIRONMENT

A certificate of recognition was awarded to the CINEC Simulator Research Team's research on creating the simulator environment area of Hambantota Port through World Bank funded research under the AHEAD operation of the Ministry of Higher Education. This is to recognize the contribution of the research team and CINEC in successfully commercialising the research with Hambantota International Port Group (HIPG).

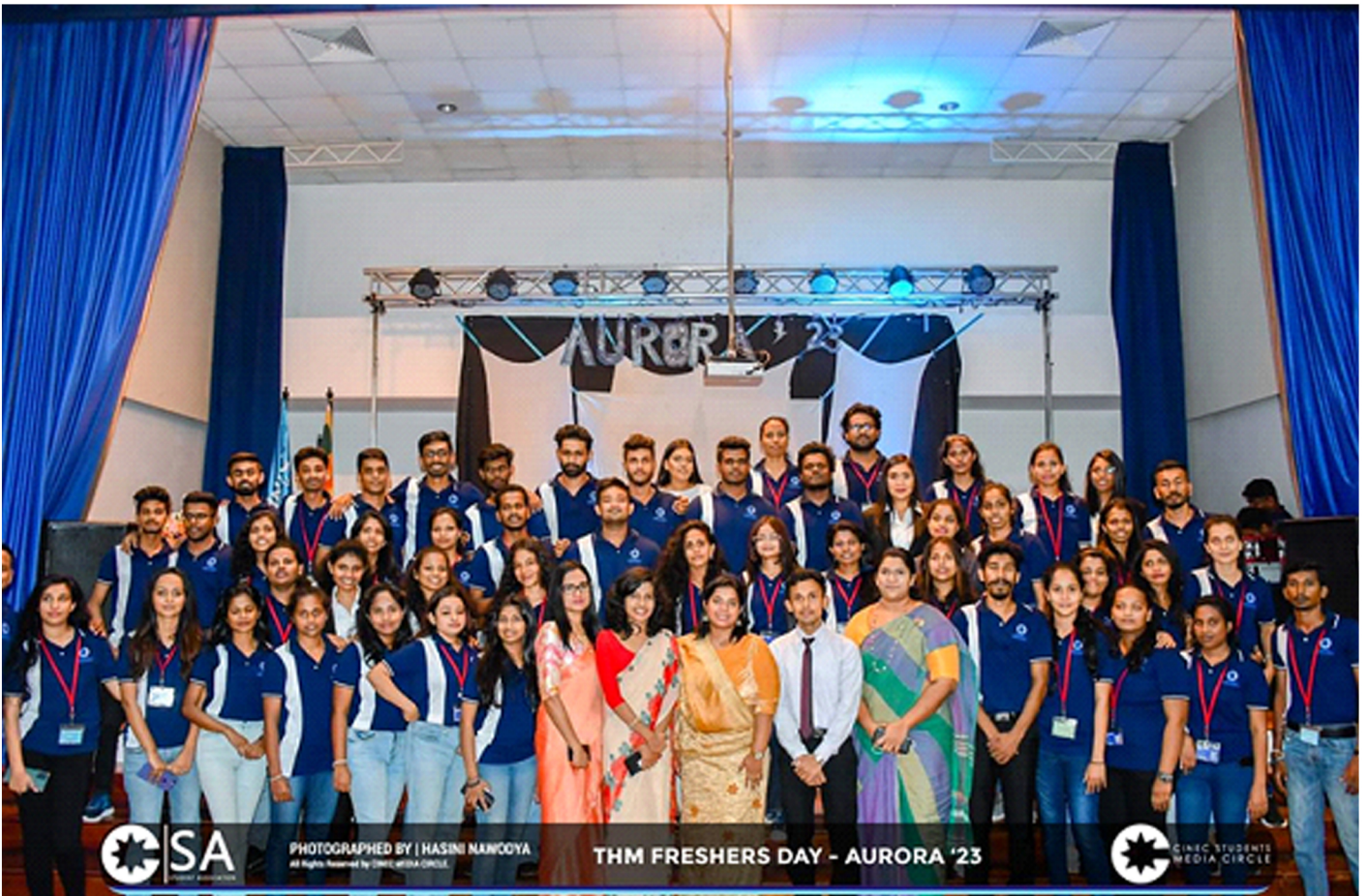




FACULTY NEWS

AURORA'23, THE FRESHERS' DAY OF THE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

The Freshers' Day for the newly joined Tourism and Hospitality Management batch was held on February 14th at the CINEC Auditorium. The event was organized by the 2nd year students of the Tourism and Hospitality Management program.



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THM FRESHERS DAY - AURORA '23





INTERNATIONAL

VISIT OF LINK TUTOR FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

It was an honor to have Dr. Julia Zakharova, the link tutor for Civil Engineering at the University of Wolverhampton, visit CINEC Campus on February 13th to 17th, 2023.

Dr. Zakharova utilized her visit to the Civil Engineering department to engage in fruitful discussions with both the academic and administrative staff. She provided valuable insights and expertise to address ongoing issues and enhance the partnership between the University of Wolverhampton and CINEC.

During her visit, Dr. Zakharova expressed her satisfaction with the state-of-the-art facilities and the warm hospitality extended to her during her stay.

The visit of Dr. Zakharova provided the students and staff of CINEC with a great chance to engage in physical discussions with a representative from the University of Wolverhampton, UK about the information they desired. Additionally, her visit highlighted the significance of institutional collaboration and the exchange of knowledge in driving progress in the field of engineering.

The visit emphasized the importance of collaboration and paved the way for a potential partnership between the two institutions.

VISITORS FROM UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON AND CHISHOLM INSTITUTE AT CINEC CAMPUS

Ms. Sergine Monple, Director of Global Opportunities, University of Wolverhampton and Mr. Damien Van Eyk, Chief Commercial Officer, Chisholm Institute will be visited CINEC Campus on Friday 21st April 2023.

She is one of the most important and a significant link in the CINEC campus corporate structure. Her contribution to the campus over 15 years has been a key element of the overall CINEC. This is Mrs. Tharanga Dilrukshi Gamage, Vice President, Finance, Administration, Projects, and Planning.

Q: What is your secret to success and becoming a pivotal leader of an esteemed higher education institution?

Honestly speaking, it was the various support I received over the years, from Visakha Vidyalaya, the University of Sri Jayawardenapura, and the University of Kelaniya, and the experiences I received from my professional life. I should also mention the support I had from my parents, my family, and my husband for all the steps I took in my journey to get where I am today. Besides having responsibilities at CINEC, I'm a mother of two. CINEC offers me support not just for my professional life but also the freedom to allow me to be a part of my children's lives and do the work necessary to bring them up. I did my post-graduate studies while working at CINEC. So, everything I have achieved so far is because I had support from all those around me to give my best, to CINEC.

Q: You are a special person in the structure of CINEC Campus. While you have many responsibilities in that regard, you also lead a normal life with an upbeat attitude. How do you manage this dual nature of your life?

My position is important on campus. Outside the campus gates, I'm an ordinary woman. I believe that as a working woman, when you work with others, it is important to have self-discipline. Especially when it comes to my work, I have to handle all the financial and administrative aspects of CINEC, from the president of the campus to every other aspect of the campus. I have to interact with different people every day. So, if you work with so many different people with a haughty attitude, it's not going to work. You have to be flexible, fair and firm to work with people.

Q: It is a universal truth right now that the pandemic of 2020 hit everyone hard financially. Yet, CINEC Campus did not falter in its ability to fulfill its duties. If anything, CINEC has thrived even more under the adversity of the pandemic. Can you tell us what kind of role you played in this regard?

Success depends on visionary leadership, and we get to know that every day from Capt. Ajith Peiris, the President of CINEC Campus. He made sure that we had stricter financial discipline during that period, and because of this discipline, we were able to fare better than most workplaces during the pandemic. CINEC had invented in efficient delivery of program communication to structure through a LMS system which was functionally much better, before the pandemic. Finally came through unscathed from that difficult period.

This helped us, including the senior management, to work together to virtualize the entire campus operation until the time came for us to come back to campus. It's due to the teamwork that was inspired by the visionary leadership provided by Capt. Ajith Peiris that we finally came through unscathed from that difficult period.

Q: Right now, we see a wider female representation in the engineering, health sciences, humanities and education, management, and marine faculties. What do you, as a woman of high standing, have to say to society and women of the country as a whole?

Almost 17 years ago, the campus was mainly a Marine university. While we did have young women studying here at the time, we have significantly lot more now. It is everyone's right, regardless of one's gender, to get a good education, and I believe CINEC Campus provides that. The campus has a good sense of discipline, respect female gender and a greater emphasis on camaraderie. Therefore, CINEC has the right and safe environment for anyone to come and learn.

Q: You are a leader behind the scenes on campus. You have a pivotal role in the ongoing of the institution. What's your take on having that kind of responsibility?

CINEC is primarily an academic institute. For it to function academically in an effective manner, we as non-academics have to give our best, especially by providing undergraduates and lecturers with the facilities they need. So, we are people working behind the scenes, supporting our colleagues who are on the front lines. Ultimately, it doesn't matter whether we work on the front lines or as the supporting cavalry; we work together as a team to achieve our collective goal, which is to make this campus a thriving institution full of unique individuals who bring something new to the table.





He has an outstanding personality on the CINEC Campus. He was the first employee of the campus and now works as a consultant of the Department of Marine Electronics, Radio, and Communication. This is Mr. Rupasinghe.

How did you come to join CINEC, and how has your relationship with the campus evolved?

I joined CINEC in 1989, when we started as an institution for maritime studies. I was working as a radio electronics officer on registered Sri Lankan ships and British vessels before joining. It was through a letter sent to me by the consultant at the time that I came to work here. I was asked to take whatever classes they were going to start at the institution, so I started the radio officer's class. My specialization was RADAR technology and in 1992 we started a course on the subject as well. Since at that time these subject areas and courses were not established in Sri Lanka due to the lack of technology and expertise in the tele-communication field, Capt. Ajith Pieris appointed me to go to the UK and get the necessary training. I was there for about a month. We established the courses after that. I went to the UK for different reasons even after that; 1996 was special in that regard because I was requested by Capt. Ajith Pieris to go and get the results of the trainees from the institution that was issuing the certifications back then, before we made these courses our own. The decisions taken in that meeting helped us bring a lot of revenue to the campus, too.

This long journey finally culminated in me becoming a consultant in the Department of Marine Electronics, Radio, and Communication. I am teaching several subjects in the Electronic and Navigational Departments. I have seen the campus grow from an institution into a large university with a lot of youngsters learning here. It has been rewarding, to say the least, to work at CINEC Campus for such a long time.

What are some of the most significant changes that you have witnessed in the campus community during your tenure?

Like I said, CINEC changed from a small institution into a large university with a high standing in Sri Lankan higher education. This transition resulted in massive changes in the infrastructure of the campus and the campus community. It went from teaching only maritime students to providing degree programs on most educational disciplines out there, whether it is Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, or Education. When this transition happened, a much larger student community and staff came to the campus. They had different backgrounds, and brought different aspects to the campus. This change was visible

throughout that particular period of my tenure, and it continues to be so.

What motivated you to keep staying on this campus for so long and what makes you keep coming back every day?

The support I get from the top management to keep continuing this job is one of the major reasons, from the president of the campus to the deans of each faculty. They are very understanding and kind-hearted. I consider it my greatest privilege and honor to be able to work with these individuals every day. And it is an even greater privilege to be able to see what I have done over the years in collaboration with these talented and dedicated people come to fruition. It is not just my reason to stay here for so long but also the reason why I come to work every day without hesitation.

Everyone has an achievement that they are most proud of. What was the achievement that made you most proud?

To be honest, there is no particular achievement but I am proud of myself for keeping myself in the loop, so to speak, on the updates of the field I teach. It has enabled me to grow with the rapid development of the industry, and it has also allowed me to be a better instructor to the students. Being able to give my students the best of the best at every turn is the proudest thing I can do.

How has the faculty changed over the years, and what has been the impact of that change on the campus as a whole?

We started as a small institution in 1990 with a handful of students, and it has grown to a significant and considerable number. The number of lecturers has increased; we now have visiting lecturers on a part-time basis and full-time lecturers. Both parties are dedicated and committed to the campus and their subject material. The lecturers are dedicated to teaching, and the students are committed to learning. This dedication and commitment they have invariably have a quite positive impact on the campus community.

Can you share some memorable experiences you have had during your time on campus?

I mentioned that we went to England for different reasons, and those visits were memorable experiences for me personally. Being able to connect with different people from different countries and bond with them over a subject field that we are all passionate about was an experience unlike any other.

What advice would you give to someone who is starting their career here at CINEC Campus?

You have to remember that the work you put in, whatever it maybe, results in the growth of the campus. Everything you do here on campus helps the leadership, the shareholders, of the campus make it a better place for you and for the students. Think of the organization while doing the quality work you are expected to do. What you do directly or indirectly helps get people to invest more in the campus.

FOUNDATION FOR NEW BUILDING LAID AT CINEC CAMPUS

Capt. Ajith Pieris and the rest of the senior management participated in a ceremony to lay the foundation stone for a new building at the CINEC Campus on the March 7th.

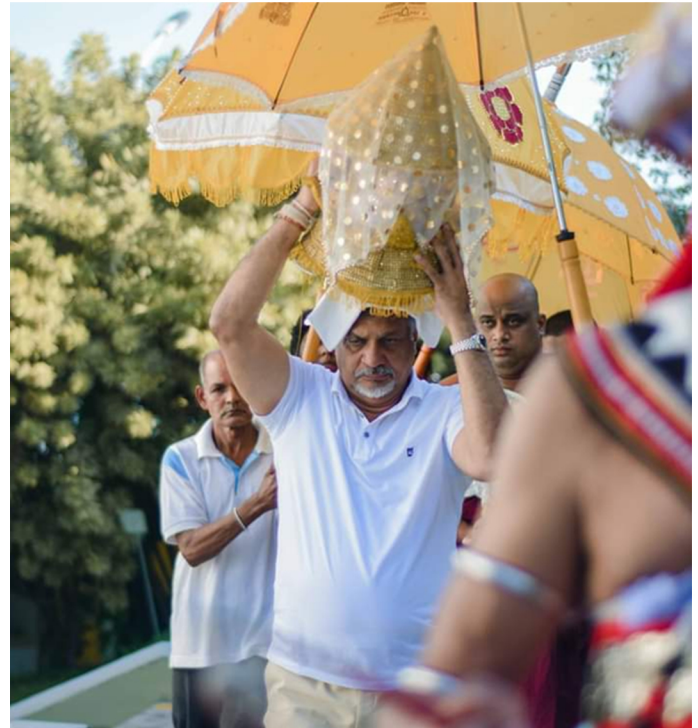




STAFF NEWS

PIRITH CHANTING TO BLESS THE CINEC

CINEC University organized an annual pirith chanting ceremony and alms giving. The main purpose of the event is to bless the university students and the academic and non-academic staff. On the night of March 31, 2023, there was a Pirith chanting ceremony, and the morning alms giving was held on April 01, marking the conclusion of the ceremony. The event was graced by the president and other higher management dignitaries of the campus.



CINEC CAMPUS COMMENCES ITS FIRST EVER SPEECHCRAFT PROGRAM

Based on requests made by a large number of staff for training in public speaking, CINEC Campus commenced its first ever Speechcraft program on Thursday January 19, 2023. Twenty-five staff members were nominated to attend the program which was conducted by the Pinnacle Advanced Toastmasters Club.

The Speechcraft Program created by Toastmasters International, has gained fame the world over for its effectiveness in developing the communication skills of its participants. Speechcraft is designed to develop participants' abilities to communicate effectively, speak with confidence in public, and deliver enterprising corporate presentations. The program also focuses on leadership and interpersonal skills, both of which are enhanced through their active participation in conducting, controlling, and evaluating the Speechcraft meetings.

The program was conducted on 10 consecutive Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. The resource team consisted of Toastmasters, including a program coordinator, feature presenters to deliver presentations on various elements of public speaking, and evaluators who provided constructive feedback to the participants.

All participants who successfully completed the program was awarded a certificate by Toastmasters International.



THURYAVALOKANAYA MUSIC NIGHT

A music night titled Thuryavalokanaya was held on the 3rd of February in the CINEC Auditorium. Musician J.M. Ajith Jayasundara conducted the orchestra for the night.



LAUNCH CEREMONY OF THE CCTH



The CINEC Circle de Tourism and Hospitality (CCTH) grand launch event was successfully concluded on February 15 at the CINEC Auditorium. CINEC Campus President Captain Ajith Peiris participated in this event, and Prof. Suranga Silva participated as the guest of honor.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE (TTO)

Role of the Technology Transfer Office

The role of the Technology Transfer Office is to move the research outcomes from the campus to the betterment of society.

TTO was established in 2019. The unit is supported by the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation of the Ministry of Higher Education, funded by the World Bank.

Before the establishment of TTOs in the Sri Lankan university system by WB funds, there was no in-house division that helped academics and students to protect their Intellectual Property and to transfer research outcomes securely to the industry.



TTO encourages and supports academics and students throughout the technology transfer process. The technology transfer process starts with an Invention disclosure Form (IDF), where a researcher submits details of their research outcomes to the TTO, confirming his or her willingness to commercialize and/or protect their research outcomes. The technology transfer process consists of a series of activities conducted by the TTO, such as assessing marketability and commercial potential, identifying potential licensee, and licensing negotiations. One of the main tasks TTO conducts is supporting throughout the intellectual property (IP) protection process in different modes protection, whether it could be protected by patent, trademark, industrial design or copyright.



Successful Technology Transfers at CINEC

TTO is proud to announce that, recently, CINEC securely transferred four technologies to the industry. Also, we would like to congratulate the Faculty of Engineering and Technology for producing innovative products and contributing to successful technology transfer to the industry.

1. Technology Licensing Agreement signing between CINEC Campus and the National Crafts Council (NCC) on December 28, 2022.

The purpose of this agreement is, CINEC will conditionally waive its intellectual property rights (IPR) in the technology associated with the "Machine for Removing Rattan" to the National Crafts Council to exploit it commercially. The inventor of the machine is Mr. Ishan Virantha, Senior Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering.



2. Technology Licensing Agreement signing between CINEC Campus and D. Samson Industries (Pvt) Ltd., Synthetic Materials Plant, on December 28, 2022.

The purpose of this agreement is, CINEC will conditionally waive its Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of technology associated with the "Defect Detection System Using Image Processing" to the Synthetic Materials Plant to utilize it internally (DSI Samson Group of Companies).

The said invention has been invented by academics and students of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology;

Mr. RandeeraLiyanage
Mr. DeshanAdithyaBandara
Mr. NipunaNilupulSamarakoon
Mr. YasithSandaryWeerasinghe
Mr. ManujalInduwara



3. Technology Licensing Agreement signing between CINEC Campus and Cargoserv Shipping Ltd., Ceyline Group of Companies, on December 28, 2022.

The purpose of this agreement is, CINEC will conditionally waive its intellectual property rights (IPR) in the technology associated with the "Method and System for Container Inventory Management" to the Cargoserv Shipping to exploit it commercially. The said invention was invented by Prof. Lalith Edirisinghe, Dean, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences.



4. Technology Licensing Agreement signing between CINEC Campus and Global Bridge International on January 11, 2023.

Another successful technology transfer is related to the "Lower Body Foot Deformities Monitoring System".

The associated technology has been transferred to "Global Bridge International," a company located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This company plans to commercialize the product in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Also, this is the first international technology transfer for the CINEC Technology Transfer Office (TTO).

The said invention has been invented by academics and students of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology;

- Mr. Dhishan Dhammearatchi
- Mr. Manula Randeera Liyanage
- Mr. Kalpa Maduranga
- Mr. Yasith Weerasinghe
- Ms. J. Ishani Sewmini Jayaweera
- Mr. R. M. Chandima Lahiru Rathnayake
- Mr. Isira Adithya Dabare
- Ms. Chrishani Rosa Obris

Distribution of Certificates to appreciate researchers for their valuable contribution in the fields of research, development, innovation, and commercialization at the technology licensing agreement signing ceremony on the 28th of December 2022.

TTO successfully completed the final evaluation by the World Bank

Moreover, TTO is proud to announce that it successfully completed the final evaluation conducted by the World Bank on January 20, 2023. This has been achieved due to three years of continuous effort from 2020 to 2023. The main focus of this journey was to transfer technologies from the lab to the marketplace. The evaluation was successfully completed, proving CINEC's ability to transfer technologies securely to society and industry. The above tech-transfer initiatives have been demonstrated.



CINEC MEDIA TEAM WINS 1ST RUNNERS-UP AT COMMUNICA'23

The team of CINEC Students' Media Circle who participated in Communica'23, annual media day of Horizon Campus, was able to win the 1st Runners-Up trophy on the 13th of February. The competitions were hosted on the 11th of February and the awarding ceremony took place in KCM premises. The team participated in a workshop held in parallel with the event. The team won by competing against competitors from fourteen other universities. The complete list of winners is as follows.

1. Akash Perera: Sports Commentary (Sinhala) 2nd place
2. Chamalka Senevirathne: Anchoring (Sinhala) 1st place
3. Gavindu Samaranyake: Mobile Photography 1st place
Dubbing (English) 3rd place
Anchoring (English) 3rd place
4. Manodya Bandara: Mobile Photography 3rd place
Sports Commentary (Sinhala) 3rd place
5. Jimni De Silva: Dubbing (Sinhala) 1st place
6. W.M. Sawinde: Dubbing (English) 1st place
Anchoring (English) 1st place
7. Kalana Samarathunga: Public Speaking (Sinhala) 1st place
8. Ishara Dananjaya: Anchoring (Sinhala) 2nd place



THE JAIL: FRESHERS' DAY OF FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION



Freshers' day of the Faculty of Humanities and Education was successfully held on 17th February 2023 in the CINEC Auditorium under the theme "The Jail." The event was organized by the undergraduates of Batch 3 of B.Ed. in IT and Batch 10 of BA in English to welcome the new undergraduates who joined Batch 4 of B.Ed. in IT and Batch 11 of BA in English. .



HOSTMASTERS'23 HOSTED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY CINEC ROTARACT

Hostmasters'23, an initiative of Rotaract Club of CINEC Campus, was held on the 20th of February at campus premises. Public Speaking and Announcing competitions were held in both Sinhala and English with competitors from several other universities taking part in the event. Awards were given to the winners in the evening of the same day according to the esteemed judge panel.

1. Can you tell us a little about your background and how you got into rugby?

• First of all, I got into rugby when I was in third grade, so that was the foundation that laid the groundwork for me to be a rugby player. Afterwards, I started to play rugby for our campus in 2019 by participating the Mora 7's tournament, which was organized by the Moratuwa university.

2. What inspired you to become the captain of the campus rugby team?

• I was grateful to be appointed as the captain and I gracefully accepted this position for the overall betterment of our team. It inspired me to bring up the skills and strengths of my team members and to lead with them.

3. What are some of the key skills required to be a successful rugby captain?

• In my opinion, it requires a lot of patience, and your teams looks out for you as a role model. At times when chaos arise, the captain must be mentally strong and emotionally disciplined. Communication and situation handling are also just as important to be a successful rugby captain.

4. Can you describe a typical day for a rugby team captain?

• Whenever a match is around the corner, I tend to change my daily routines leading up to the day of the match. From the time I get out of bed in the morning to the foods I eat before going to bed at night, everything changes. I usually get up at 5.30 in the morning and head to campus by 6.30 to start practice sessions. The bbpractices last around 3 hours in the morning, and then I head back home to shower. Subsequently I follow a strict diet during the day and in the evening I hit the gym for fitness and strength training.

5. How do you motivate your team before a big game?

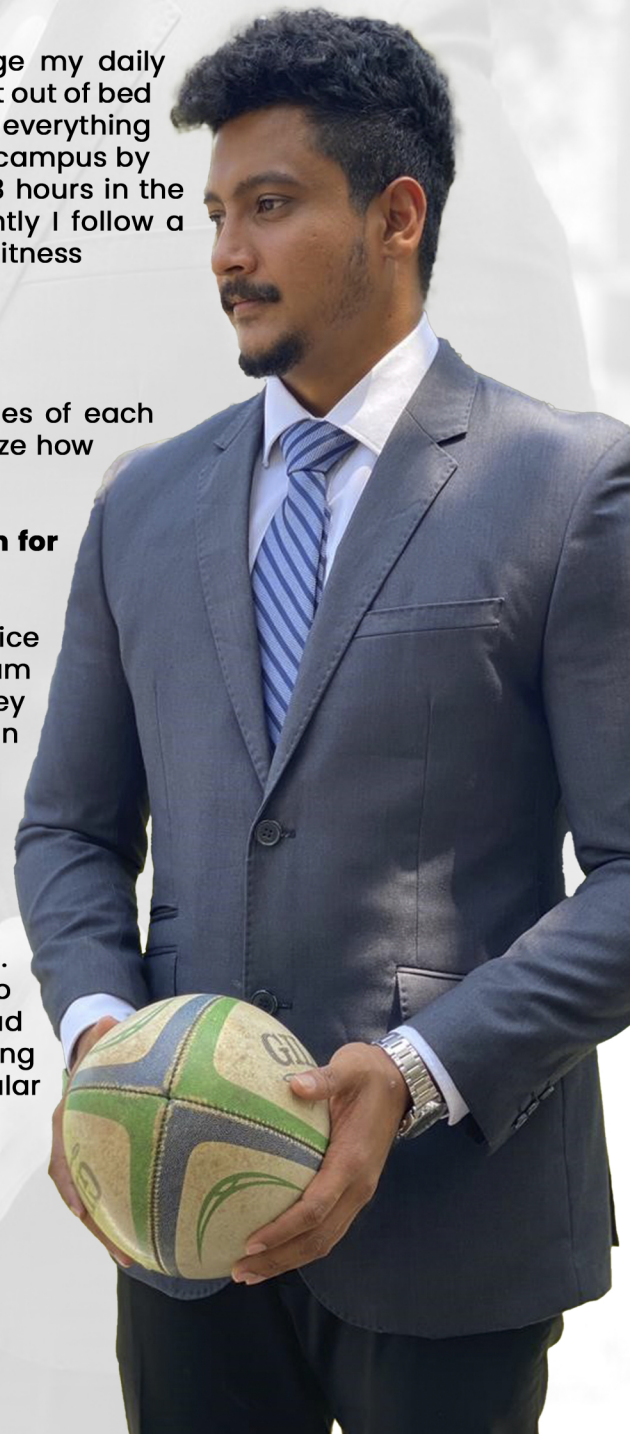
• Before a big game, as the captain I analyze the weaknesses of each player and transform vthem into strengths, I always emphasize how important it is to win the game.

6. What is your team approach to training and preparation for matches?

• Whenever a match is around the corner, we schedule practice sessions early mornings before the lectures start. We have team players come to practices from rural areas even at times they don't have lectures. It's always refreshing to see their dedication because it drives me be better captain.

7. What have been some of the biggest challenges you've faced as a rugby captain, and how did you overcome them?

• We definitely met with a few challenges in our tournaments. In 2019 we participated in our first tournament at CIMA 7n's. During our match, several key players got severely injured to the point they couldn't stand on their own. Subsequently We had to replace their positions with skilled players. With them giving their level best ,we were able to obtain 3rd place in that particular tournamente.





EXTRA-CURRICULAR

RAMADAN IFTAR 2023 CEREMONY

Ramadan is the Arabic name for the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is considered one of the holiest months for Muslims and is characterized by a period of fasting, considered one of the five pillars of Islam.



These are five principles that Muslims believe to be obligatory acts ordained by God: the other pillars are faith, prayer, charity, and pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.



Iftar is the name of the meal that Muslims eat at sunset to break their fast during Ramadan, and is the fasting person's main meal of the day. To celebrate it, CINEC Campus organized the Ramadan Iftar event on April 6, 2023 at the Main cafeteria premises.



The Sinhala and Tamil New Year's Festival of CINEC Campus, "CINEC Vasantha Udanaya," was held on the 23rd of April at CINEC premises, all day long. It was organized to give the undergraduates at CINEC Campus an opportunity to interact with each other and experience the culture of Sri Lanka. The event was graced by the senior management, and it began according to tradition by boiling milk. The day was made colorful with many traditional New Year events, including traditional games like tug-of-war, singing of traditional poems, and painting the eye on the elephant.

The event was cosponsored by several companies and individuals, including Domino's Pizza, How to Drive Driving Solutions, and Master Mind with Roshan Fernando. Industry professional, Now You See Me, was the official photography partner, and VRD6 was the official videography partner. Their contribution helped make the festival a success.

The highlight of the day was the selection of the New Year's Prince and Princess. The selection of the final 12 in each category took place on the 19th of April, and the final round was held on the 23rd of April. The judge panel for the first round included, Ms. Harshi Dulanjalee, Mr. Chethiya Weerakoon, Mr. Dian Fernando, and Mr. Rumal Dhananjana.





WORLD DAYS

SRI LANKAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day in Sri Lanka is celebrated every year on February 4th to commemorate the country's independence from British colonial rule in 1948. This day is an important national holiday. It is celebrated with great enthusiasm and pride throughout the country.

On Independence Day, the President of Sri Lanka raises the national flag and delivers a speech in front of a large crowd at the Independence Square in Colombo. The national anthem is played. A parade consisting of members of the armed forces, school children, and various cultural groups adds more color to the event. Significantly, this parade is a showcase of Sri Lanka's cultural diversity and military strength.

Moreover, to celebrate the occasion, special events and cultural performances are held in schools, colleges, and public places as well.

Independence Day in Sri Lanka is not just a celebration of the country's political freedom but also a day to reflect on the values that define the nation. It is a time to rejoice in the rich cultural heritage of Sri Lanka, including its diverse religions, languages, and traditions. It is also an opportunity to pay tribute to the brave men and women who fought for the country's independence and sacrificed their lives for the freedom that we enjoy today.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Just like in many other countries around the world, International Women's Day is celebrated in Sri Lanka on March 8th every year. It mainly focuses on the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women and calls for gender equality. Most importantly, it raises awareness about issues and harassment affecting women. And it also pays attention to their contributions to society.

In Sri Lanka, various events and activities are organized to celebrate the achievements of women and promote gender equality on that day. These may include seminars, conferences, workshops, cultural programs, and exhibitions, among others. Women's organizations, government agencies, and civil society groups play a vital role in organizing these events and activities.

In recent years, the celebration of Independence Day has also become a platform for promoting national unity and reconciliation. Sri Lanka has gone through a long period of civil conflict, and Independence Day provides an opportunity for the country to come together and celebrate its common history and cultural heritage.

In conclusion, Independence Day in Sri Lanka is a day of national pride and celebration. It is a time to remember and honor the sacrifices made by our forefathers for the freedom and prosperity of the nation. And also, it is a time for the youngsters to reaffirm our commitment to building a better and more united Sri Lanka.



The theme for Women's Day in Sri Lanka varies from year to year, and reflects the current challenges and opportunities for women. The theme for Women's Day 2023 was "Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality" which is aligned with the upcoming 67th Session of the Commission on the status of women, "Innovation and technology change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". In Sri Lanka too, despite the economic crisis, Women's Day was celebrated, mainly evoking the theme "She is the pride of the nation".



INTERNATIONAL BOOK DAY 2023

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one."

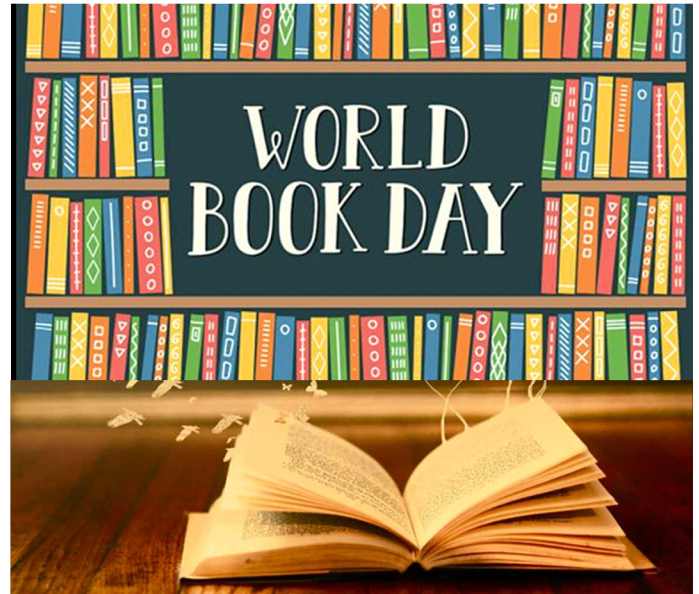
So says the author of *A Song of Ice and Fire*, George R.R. Martin.

This year's International Book Day was celebrated around the world on April 23, 2023. The theme for this year's Book Day was "Make it your book day."

It is truly an inescapable fact that books are a part of culture and will continue to be so. In whatever medium it is in, a good book can transcend generations, and breakdown man-made trivialities such as discrimination and prejudice. Good literature can open one's eyes to possibilities that one never thought of.

This is what International Book Day is there for; to remind the citizens of Earth that books can brighten a life. Whether they are fiction or non-fiction, books provide humankind with an incomparable scope for imagination. Within the words and the white space between them, one can find love, intrigue, romance, reality, fantasy, and adventure. One may escape one's dreaded reality for at least a moment and find comfort.

What is it that you desire? Do you want a gothic tale of intriguing romance? Do you want to experience life with a character whose eyes are filled with love for the world? Do you want to escape to a school of magic and learn from the greatest wizards and witches alive? These and more are out there in the world, waiting for you to catch them.





He watched as the bus zoomed past other vehicles, trees, and buildings. The sun was glowing with a red hue now and it was easier to look at it as it came ever slowly down. From inside the sealed window, he could only hear muffled sounds of horns and roadside carol music blasting through big black speakers. The AC was starting to chill him to the bone. The passenger next to him on the immediate corridor seat, a young woman, was on her phone. Possibly, texting a lover or a family member.

Gayan wondered what it was like to have a lover. He has only asked two girls out in his entire life, and both said no. The first one was a good friend of his since childhood, and in his naiveté, he assumed that she would say yes to a romantic prospect. The second was a girl he met in his university, petite but beautiful, who studied in the junior batch.

The reasons for both negative replies were the same; they were not ready for a relationship. He often asks himself what it means to be "ready" for a relationship. But his mind refuses to give an answer. He has answers for almost everything but this is the only problem he can't get a solution to. When it comes to this particular problem, his mind becomes as white as a sheet of paper.

He saw that they were now pulling up to the highway. The bus gradually turned to the left and entered the smooth carpeted road. The setting sun's light seemed to be reflected in the white lines that separated the lanes. Outside his window was the magnificent sight of a lagoon. The wooden tips of Jaa Squares used to catch shrimps in these parts were visible. In his mind, he was reminded of the movie *Fantastic Four: The Rise of the Silver Surfer* where the planet devourer Galactus was depicted as a worm of smoke with teeth at its front opening that resembled the Jaa Square tips. He wondered whether that was what the captive shrimps felt; as if their entire world is being devoured by the cruel, claustrophobic contraption. The small dipping waves of the lagoon resembled a tight piece of cloth being raised at a single point by someone's index finger and thumb. The other possibility that ran in his mind was that there was an invisible string attached to the tip of each wave and an invisible puppet master was pulling them according to a rhythm of his own.

He had to smile at the sight of the lagoon though. It was the first time Gayan saw the great body of water since he went to drop his father to the airport about five years ago with his mother in tow. She was healthy then. Or so he thought. She never actually told any of them that she was secretly ill. It was only after the funeral that they—Gayan and his father—got to know that she was silently suffering from type-two diabetes and high blood pressure. The only one she ever told was her best friend and she made her promise not to tell either of them. And that woman, in her glorious wisdom, abided by it. Until the day his mother was burnt to ashes at the cemetery.

No, no, his inner voice screamed at the flooding wave of memories. Go away. Go away now.

He closed his eyes and took a deep breath. It was hard but he eventually was able to think about his dinner. He knew that he was too tired to cook. "Maybe some rice from Chamara's shop," he thought. "Or egg roti." When he opened his eyes, the lagoon was gone replaced by an abundance of trees. He cursed under his breath at the prospect that the lagoon was no longer there.

His bag, a black one usually used to carry around laptops, rested on his lap. He remembered that Haruki Murakami's *Norwegian Wood* was in it. He took it out, the red paperback cover making his hands tingle with its familiarity. The orange ribbon of the bookmark was at page 224. Midori was handing Toru a pistachio nut at the DUG bar at this point in the story.

He was in page 234 when his phone started vibrating in his pocket. Just when Midori was going on about her life a little bit. He took it out. The usual white background of the Imo audio call was displaying on the phone. The contact name read "Dad." He pressed the green call button and put the phone to his ear.

"Dad," he whispered, trying to keep a low profile. "Where are you?" His father's reply from the other side came, hoarse and deep as ever.

"I just got into the highway. I'm going home."

"Why the hell are you being this quiet? Speak up, dammit. It's not like loud sounds are strange in busses, you idiot." A ding. He hung up.

As if he could understand the unnatural silence inside the busses that went on the highways. It was the complete opposite of the bus rides Gayan was used to when he went to university or any other place. The only sounds that have mixed up naturally with the absence of human voices here were the sounds of the bus engine and the blowing AC. He felt as if breaking this silence would break the ground apart. And he didn't want these complete strangers to hear his business.

He put the book back in and looked out the window once again. His father's angry voice reminded him of the kind of man he used to be before mother's death; happy, confident, and outgoing. The moment he saw his wife in the lacquered coffin, he changed into the exact opposite of everything he was. He stayed home for six months afterwards. Then, telling his son to look after himself and promising to send him money and call him every day, he left. He went back to his job in New Zealand where he worked as an accountant. He kept his promise and sent money and called. But it has been three years since he left. There hasn't even been a lousy video call from him. Whenever Gayan tried to get one, his father would disconnect and switch back to audio. It was as if he didn't want to show his face. Or he didn't want to see Gayan's.

Another half hour went on until they exited the highway at Galawilawaththa. Oh, great, I'm home, he thought sullenly. The bus now drove in the public road. It was filled with vehicles since it was the "Office Hour" as they called it. The bus sluggishly moved forward with the traffic stopping once to drop the passengers at Makumbura. The girl next to him got out there, her gigantic bag slung on her shoulder. Once it started moving again, he called out to the conductor and reminded him to drop him at Moraketiya.

Twenty five minutes passed until he got out at his destination. He wished the driver and the conductor a happy new year and watched as it drove along in the direction of the Maharagama bus station. He crossed the road to go and get a packet of chicken fried rice from Chamara's. It was four hundred and fifty rupees. Cursing the economy, he paid the cashier, an old friend who used to go to school with him.

The three-wheel ride to his home took another ten minutes. He paid the fare to the driver and watched as the taxi drove on reverse towards the start of the lane. He opened the gate and entered his garden. It was as messy as ever. I got to clean this tomorrow, he thought, knowing full well that something will come up tomorrow that will prevent him from doing so. He walked along the cobble stones to the veranda and opened the front door closing it just as fast before the damned mosquitoes got in.

He put his bag on a chair in the living room and opened the door to his room, the kitchen and the bathroom one by one. The parcel he had in his hand, his dinner, was kept on the small table in the kitchen.

Gayan went into the bathroom and stood in front of the wall mirror. He took his phone out and played Cowboys Don't Cry. He slowly took away his clothes, first his shirt, then his trousers and then his vest and boxers until he was bare skinned in front of the mirror. He tossed the bundled clothes into the already open washing machine, washed his hands and got into the shower.

As the cold water ran down his bare skin, he let out a stream of tears. The water dripping through his hair to his face mixed with the tears and his shout of despair was drowned out by the song playing at maximum volume.





SPORTS

2023 CINEC BASKETBALL ENCOUNTER: CINEC V. APIIT

The basketball match between CINEC University and APIIT University was held on the 17th of February at the CINEC Multi Sports Area. The CINEC team won the tournament for the third time. CINEC vs. APIIT, which started for the first time in 2018. The APIIT basketball tournament could not be held for three years due to the COVID pandemic situation. The women's APIIT team managed to win the match by 6 to 3. APIIT Lanka Chief Education Officer, Gamindu Hemachandra, President of CINEC Campus, Ajith Peiris and a large number of sports fanatics gathered to watch the competition.



CINEC VS. SLTC VOLLEYBALL ENCOUNTER

A friendly volleyball match was held between CINEC Campus and SLTC Campus. The match was played at the CINEC outdoor multi-sports ground, and SLTC claimed victory by a close margin.



A sports tournament organized jointly by all Rotaract clubs in Sri Lanka as a Rotaract district project was held recently in a grand manner. These competitions were held in different categories over three days. Athletics were held on the 3rd of March at the Mahinda Rajapaksa Stadium, group events were held on the 5th of March at the Colombo University Basketball Court, and indoor games were held on the 1st of April at the Colombo University Indoor Stadium. The CINEC Futsal men's team qualified for the semi-finals, the basketball team was the champions, the rugby team was the 2nd runner-up, and the CINEC Futsal women's team qualified for the semi-finals.



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Widyalankara, R.C.

EDITORIAL PANEL

1. Senarath R.K.G.D
2. Sawinde W.M
3. Balasuriya D.N.A
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5. Kulasinghe K.D.P.A

CHIEF EDITOR - ChandrawanshaP. S.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

1. Sinhalage S. S.
2. Sijanatha N. V. B. S.
3. Rathnayake R.K.D.S.P

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