

Third Academic Sessions



Proceedings of the Third Academic Sessions University of Ruhuna

30th January, 2006

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Preface

The Third Annual Academic Sessions of the Ruhuna University was held on 30th January 2006 on a broad theme "Research for National Development". In conjunction with this event, the second Vice-Chancellor's award ceremony took place, to reward the efforts of outstanding academics, who have excelled in their professional career during the past year.

The main purpose of holding the annual academic sessions is to bring together both staff and students of all faculties and provide a common platform to present and share their latest research findings with colleagues, academic community and stakeholders. Further, it will give them an impetus to demonstrate their oral and written communication skills.

The core technical programme comprises the oral and poster sessions and a display of innovations and inventions by the staff and students. Further, those who presented the best scientific paper/poster from each faculty were rewarded as a source of motivation and encouragement.

This proceedings carries 53 research papers presented at the oral and poster sessions on a broad range of subjects and disciplines, contributed by the staff and students of the Faculties of Agriculture, Medicine, Engineering, Science, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Management & Finance. A notable feature of this year's session is that a special session has been organized to discuss the main findings of the recovery and restoration programme implemented by the staff and students, following the Asian Tsunami that struck the southern coastal belt on 26 December, 2004.

I wish to congratulate the recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's awards and those who presented papers at the oral and poster sessions. I sincerely thank Ms. Shyamalie Palihakkara and Mr. Rivikalana Wengappuli for their time and effort in word processing and compiling the proceedings. Financial support given by National Science Foundation is gratefully acknowledged. Finally, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the authors and co-author of papers, the reviewers and academic and non-academic staff for their assistance and co-operation in making this event a success.

Prof. Mahi de S. Liyanage
Editor-in-Chief

30th January, 2006

Message of the Vice-Chancellor

I am pleased to send this message felicitating the staff and students who would be making presentations at the Third Academic Sessions of the University of Ruhuna. We held the First Academic Sessions in 2003 - the Silver Jubilee Year of the university and it is heartening to note that the academic sessions have now become an annual event of the university, fostering and nurturing research culture.

As a University committed to academic excellence, high impact research, community development and international cooperation, we are proud to witness an improvement both in quality and relevance of research performed by our staff. In keeping with our vision of creating a multidisciplinary borderless university, we are keen to see more and more research being undertaken across disciplinary boundaries, forming dynamic and winning multidisciplinary teams with synergies.

At the academic sessions, a separate session is devoted to Post-tsunami Recovery and Rehabilitation, which reflects the active engagement of the university staff in post-tsunami relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction studies.. This session is attended by national as well several international scientists and by some leading NGOs and INGOs.

Last year, we introduced the Vice-Chancellor's Awards Scheme with a view to honouring and recognizing the outstanding staff and students of the university and motivating the staff for excellence. Under this motivation award scheme, this year we will be rewarding the most outstanding scholar, most outstanding junior scientist, most outstanding staff innovator/inventor, highest research grants recipient and the most outstanding tsunami relief provider. We will hold this landmark event in conjunction with the third academic sessions and have invited His Excellency Jurgen Weerth, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany as the chief Guest.

It is our hope this dual event will promote and foster academic excellence, innovations, high impact interdisciplinary research, community service and international linkages, making the University of Ruhuna not only a leader, but also a model in the higher education landscape of the country.

While heartily congratulating the Vice-Chancellor's awards recipients and expressing my deep gratitude to members of the Organizing Committee headed by Prof. M. de S. Liyanage for organizing this event in a grand and imposing manner, I wish Third Academic Sessions every success!

Prof. Ranjith Senaratne
Vice-Chancellor

30th January 2006