



# Newsletter

February 2025 Issue

**"Sarvasva Locanam Sasthram"**  
Knowledge is the Eye unto All



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## Board of Management 2023/2025:

### Board of Directors

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 Past-President: Pubudu Edirisinghe (Eng)  
 Secretary: Duminda Randeniya (Eng)  
 Vice-President: Nalaka Jayamaha (Eng)  
 Vice-President: Xavier Fernando (Eng)  
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 Asst. Secretary: Chatumal Perera (Eng)  
 Editor: Upul Herath (Eng)  
 Editor: Kushalya Fernando (Arts)

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 Jayalath Samarakkody (Sc)  
 Rajitha Senanayaka (Sc)  
 Dhammika Premarathna (Sc)

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## Message from the Board of Management (BOM)

### Happy New Year!

Thanks to your enthusiastic participation, we enjoyed another unforgettable year filled with wonderful memories and lasting friendships. As we welcome 2025, we anticipate even more engaging activities to strengthen the bonds among our alumni families. We encourage each of you to contribute your talents in the new year to make a positive impact on our Association's growth. A warm welcome to all our Peradeniya alumni living in the GTA and suburbs who have yet to join us - your participation is valued!

We held our Inter-Alumni Cricket Tournament and Family Get-together at Earncliffe Recreation Centre in Brampton on Saturday, July 6th. It was fantastic to see so many energetic young players from various parts of the GTA and suburbs joining our team. Team Peradeniya finished as runner-up, with Team J'pura taking home the trophy. Congratulations to Team J'pura! We look forward to seeing more new faces this year and hope to bring home the championship. Please encourage your fellow alumni to join our cricket team!

Our inaugural one-day summer outing to Kincardine beach took place on Saturday, August 24th. The trip, organized in a school bus, was a resounding success! Participants enjoyed a day filled with fun at the beach, and we received wonderful feedback. It was a delightful opportunity for many of us to relive our youth, and we can't wait to create more cherished memories on our next summer trip this August!

Our final Town Gail Gathering of 2024 took place in Guelph on Saturday, November 30th, bringing together families from Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo areas. This event was vibrant and successful, welcoming many new members to the Peradeniya community. Attendees shared cherished university memories, listened to a presentation on mentoring and networking, and enjoyed meaningful interactions.

The Board of Management (BOM) is delighted to plan new and exciting events for 2025, and we will share details soon. Be sure to mark these important dates on your calendar—you won't want to miss them!

Let's continue to work together and showcase the *Peradeniya Spirit*!

**We welcome and encourage contributions from alumni and their families, including children, for publishing in the Newsletter. Please see guidelines on the last page.**

# Noticeboard



## Upcoming Events >>>>

1. Brampton-Mississauga-Etobicoke Town Hall Gathering – **Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** *(Time and location will be announced)*
2. Annual Trail Walk – **Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**
3. Inter-Alumni Cricket Tournament and Family Get-Together – **Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**
4. Summer Event – **Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**
5. AGM and Hanthana Night – **November** *(Date/time and location will be announced)*

## Membership News

- ❖ Alumni members can e-transfer 2025 membership fees to the Association via: [peraalumnigta@gmail.com](mailto:peraalumnigta@gmail.com)  
*(Full \$20, Associate \$10, Life \$200)*
- ❖ Your active participation and engagement are essential to sustain and grow our Association.

## Your support needed: Connect us with Peradeniya Alumni newcomers!

**We count on your continued support to connect us with any Peradeniya Alumni newcomers not yet connected with the Association.**

- ❖ Please spread the word among Alumni newcomers in GTA and suburbs to join the Association.

Joining is simple through the online form on our website:

<https://www.peradeniyaalumnigta.com/index.php/join-us/>

Or simply scan the QR code to fill in the form on your mobile:



- ❖ For any membership related question, please contact: [peraalumnigta@gmail.com](mailto:peraalumnigta@gmail.com)

**Your active role towards growth of our Alumni membership is very much appreciated!**



## ***Peradeniya Alumni Cricket Team crowned Runner-up***



The 2024 Inter-Alumni Cricket Tournament and Family Get Together was held on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at Earnscliffe Recreation Centre in Brampton. It was a bright and sunny day, perfect for cricket. The usual vibrancy of this annual summer event included not just cricket, but also the festive spirit of alumni tents - with food, music, and cheer. It was great to see many young players from all over the GTA and suburbs joining our team. Team Peradeniya ended as runner-up, while Team J'pura became champions for 2025. Congratulations Team J'pura! We look forward to seeing more new faces this year, with the hope to regain the championship. Encourage fellow alumni to join our cricket team!

Well done Team Peradeniya! It was a great display of cricket with dedication, commitment and sportsmanship as usual.

## ***Annual Summer Event – Day trip to Kincardine beach***



On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for the first time we organized a day trip to Kincardine Beach as our annual summer event. Alumni families and friends joined in for a fun-filled day of laughter and engaging beach activities. A school bus was chartered for the trip, adding to the excitement. Many attendees reminisced about the joyful trips back in their university days. We will plan an even more memorable summer event in August 2025!





## Tri-City Townhall Gathering and Family Get-together



Continuing our tradition of connecting with alumni across regions, we held the Tri-City Townhall Gathering and Family Get-Together on Saturday, November 30th, at Dublin St. United Church in Guelph, targeting the Cambridge, Guelph, and Kitchener-Waterloo areas. We were thrilled to see enthusiastic participation from alumni and families, especially many newcomers. This event featured a helpful guidance presentation for newcomers, along with a fun trivia game that sparked engagement. Everyone enjoyed a delightful evening filled with networking, delicious food, music, singing, and dancing!



## 'Hanthana Night-2024' by Ottawa Chapter



The Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya Ottawa Chapter (AAUPOC) successfully organized last year's Hanthana Night on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Ukrainian Banquet and Convention Hall in Ottawa. The event featured authentic traditional Sri Lankan "Rookada" or Sri Lankan puppet for the first time in Canada. Representatives from our Association also participated at the event on the invitation from Ottawa Chapter.



## ❖ The University of Peradeniya Secures Top Spot in Sri Lanka for UI GreenMetric 2024

The University of Peradeniya proudly claims the top position in Sri Lanka, ranks 10th in South Asia, 101st in Asia, and 192nd globally in the prestigious UI GreenMetric World University Ranking 2024. With an impressive total score of 8,050 out of 10,000, the university has earned its place among the elite 309 Gold Cluster Universities. Notably, the University of Peradeniya has advanced by 87 positions globally compared to 2023, reflecting its unwavering commitment to sustainability and continuous improvement.



## ❖ The World's Top 2% Scientists from University of Peradeniya !

Stanford University's list of "World's Top 2%" scientists is based on a 2% or above percentile rank, or the top 100,000 by c-score (with and without self-citations). This prestigious list identifies the world's leading researchers, representing approximately 2% of all scientists worldwide. It encompasses standardized data on citations, h-index, and a wide range of bibliometric indicators. Researchers are classified into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields, drawing from Scopus data provided by Elsevier.



#### ❖ Inaugural National Sustainable Tourism Conference (NSTC 2024)

The inaugural National Sustainable Tourism Conference (NSTC 2024), a collaborative effort between the Department of Trade, Commerce & Tourism, Central Province, and the Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya, took place successfully on December 17, 2024, at the Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya. The event brought together a vibrant mix of academics, policymakers, industry leaders, and students to explore sustainable tourism practices under the theme, “Harmony of Culture, Heritage, and Nature: Towards Sustainable Tourism in Sri Lanka.”

#### ❖ Bhutanese students got enrolled for MBBS in the Faculty of Medicine

Ten Bhutanese students got enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya on 02.12.2024 to pursue MBBS degree programme. All of them are top ranked in the university entrance examinations in Bhutan and have been sent here on the memorandum of understanding between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the University of Peradeniya. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the MOU signed between the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan and the University of Peradeniya.

#### ❖ 75th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions: Photo Exhibition & Panel Discussion

A photo exhibition, commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, was declared open at the New Library Building on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. The exhibition is organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in collaboration with the University of Peradeniya. The Geneva Conventions, adopted in 1949, represent the most significant attempt made by the international community to establish a legal framework that ensures the protection of people who are most vulnerable in times of war; i.e. civilians, prisoners of war, the wounded, and the sick.

#### ❖ Maker Faire 2024: The IoE exhibition

Students showcased their learning outcomes of Microcontroller (Arduino, Raspberry pi, etc.) based implementations exploring the Internet of Everything (IoE) concepts. This year, 18 student groups from the Computer Science 2<sup>nd</sup> year batch demonstrated their exhibits, ranging from medical drones, robotic arms, and CPR and AED training kits to smart greenhouses and smart blind sticks. They were based on various applications like medicine, agriculture, engineering, etc.

[Source: <https://www.pdn.ac.lk/all-news/>]



**Guidelines for topics and content of material/creations to be published under the banner, Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – GTA and Suburbs**

1. *These guidelines have been developed to provide opportunity for alumni members and the families to contribute with their creativity and knowledge to the publications of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – GTA & Suburbs whilst ensuring credibility of the Association.*
2. *Types of publications may include, but not be restricted to, the Newsletter, event magazines, magazines on special topics or general topics, arts, collections, scientific journals, photos and video publications, contest results, informative documents, interviews etc.*
3. *The decision to publish or not will be determined by the Association's editorial board (President, Secretary, Past President & 02 Communication Leads of BOM) and their decision will be final. If needed, the Association may appoint a specialized editorial board depending on the theme/subject matter.*
4. *The material can be in the form of write-up, poem, quiz, cartoons, photographs, pictorials, or any other similar material, but should not be excessive in length, size etc. It is desirable to have themes associated with the University of Peradeniya or higher education, but this condition does not restrict materials of any other relevant topics. Time to time the Association may invite contributions to suggested themes/topics.*
5. *The articles can be written in English, Sinhalese, or Tamil.*
6. *The material should not promote/support any political or religious views/activities OR any social activity that can directly or indirectly lead to engagement, promotion, or participation of any political or religious activity or incite friction or violence.*
7. *As far as possible the material should be original and it is the responsibility of the author to retain evidence pertaining to any reference, quotations etc. made in the material. The author also undertakes to produce such material if requested by the editorial board.*
8. *The material should not be self-promoting or directly/indirectly, discrediting/disrespecting any individual/s living or dead or promoting hate behaviour, violence etc.*
9. *Once received, the Association retains the right to use the material for promotion of the Association or its activities.*
10. *Whilst the Association will make every effort to publish all the material conforming to the above terms, due to exceptional reasons, including decisions of the editorial board etc., some material may not be published in the alumni publications. Any such material will be returned to the author as soon as practical.*
11. *Any other governance rules issued time to time by the Association will supersede content of this document.*

**These guidelines are not intended to restrict creativity, but have been developed in the spirit of transparent working principles of the Association. We therefore request your cooperation in adhering to them in the right 'Peradeniya Spirit'.**

**The Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – GTA & Suburbs**

*Version 1: 10 July 2020*

**Summary of Objectives of the Association**

(Pursuant to ARTICLE THREE of the Constitution)

- MOBILIZE & DRIVE ALUMNI
- SUPPORT & PROMOTE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
- PROVIDE SERVICES AND BENEFITS
- SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS
- SUPPORT PERADENIYA ALUMNI NEWCOMERS TO CANADA
- RECOGNIZE ACHIEVEMENTS
- COMMUNICATE & INTERACT
- CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA
- The Association shall not engage or promote or participate in any political or religious activities OR any social activity that can directly or indirectly lead to engagement, promotion, or participation of any political or religious activity and/or in conflict with the above objectives. Any exception will be evaluated by the Board of Management based on merits. However, this principle does not aim at restricting any individual choices.