

NEWSLETTER

Peradeniya Engineering Faculty
Alumni Association



March 2025: Volume 33 Issue 04



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VISSION

TO BE THE BEST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN SRI LANKA



MISSION

ENGAGE ALUMNI AND FACULTY AND SHOWCASE THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AS AN ESSENTIAL PARTNER OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FACULTY AND THE COUNTRY

Editor's Note



The 33rd Annual General Meeting of PEFAA was held on November 23, 2024 from 3 pm onward at the Faculty of Engineering. The AGM was followed by a Dinner Dance at Oak Ray Regency at Getambe. The meeting and the dinner were well attended.

All the members of the EXCO were willing to continue for another term on the request of the membership, especially in view of the ongoing jubilee activities.

The following is the list of names of the committee members.

Position	Proposed Name
General Secretary	Eng. Dharshana Athauda
President	Eng. Ravi Theaver
Vice President	Eng. Jude Lal
Assistant Secretary	Eng. Sampath Somarathna
Assistant Secretary	Eng. Udayapriya Wickramasinghe
Treasurer	Eng. (Mrs.) Lekha Bakmeedeniya
Assistant Treasurer	Eng. Richard Pitawala
Editor	Prof. Manjula Sandirigama
Webmaster	Dr. Nalin Harischandra
Committee Members	Eng. P.H. Sarath Gamini
	Eng. Nuhuman Marikkar
	Eng. L.Bogahapitiya
	Eng. Ashoka Bandara
	Eng. J.H.Meegoda
	Eng. M.B.Ariyaratna
	Eng. Chandana Thilakasiri
	Eng. (Mrs.) T.Ariyaratna
	Dr. Jayalath Edirisinghe
Eng. T.L. Chandrasiri	
Ex-officio	
Dean	Prof. Lilantha Samaranayake
Faculty Board Representative	Dr. (Mrs.). Shobha Herath
Past President	Eng. Nimal Thilakarathna
Past Secretary	Dr. Janaka Wijayakulasooriya

This issue contains the progress of the ongoing jubilee activities, and some Faculty news.

Manjula Sandirigama

Editor (2023/2024)

E78 Projects

Project 1 - Supply & install 2 multimedia projectors for Drawing Office No. 1: ANSCOM LIMITED commenced the equipment installations of both Project 1 and Project 3 on 29 January 2025. The installations are not yet completed due to delay in receiving multimedia projectors by ANSCOM LIMITED. Both projects completion is now expected by the end of February. The total Contract value of Rs. 2,969,346.

Project 2 - Update lecture rooms 2 & 3 with state of art equipment: Data eNet Computer Systems (Pvt) Ltd. completed the installations and testing along with the technical staff of the Faculty. The formal hand-over of the installed system to the Faculty is in progress. The Contract value is Rs. 1,576,820.

Project 3 - Supply & install 2 multimedia projectors and sound system for Drawing Office No. 2: Covered under Project 1 above including the engagement value.

Project 4 – Update lecture rooms 10 & 11 with state of art equipment including audio-visual connection between them: The Contract was awarded to Data eNet Computer Systems (Pvt) Ltd on 11 February 2024. The Contract amount is Rs. 1,807,000 The installations completion is expected by the end of April.

Project 5 – Supply of laboratory equipment to the Electrical Lab: The market assessment was completed and the Request for Quotations was issued to the suppliers on 11 February inviting quotation submissions before 28 February.

PEFAA and the Technical Staff of the Faculty will monitor the implementation activities to ensure the quality compliance and the timely completion of the projects.

Below is a summary of the financial status as of today.

1. Diamond Jubilee Projects E78 Contribution - Total Rs. 6,907,650
2. Amount received from E78's FD at PEFAA - Rs. 2,573,481
3. Total amount available for Diamond Jubilee Projects - Rs. 9,481,131 (1+2 above)
4. Total obligated so far through 3 Contracts awarded - Rs. 6,353,166
5. The available balance for Project 5 - Rs. 3,127,965

List of Faculty Facelift Projects and Commitments

No	Project Title	Cost (Rs. Millions)	Taken By	Funds / Status	Amount Pledged	Amount Received	Progress
1	Painting - Administration Building External	3.2	E82 Batch	Funds Collected. Job will start on February	3.2		
2	Painting - Administration Building internal	6.6	E82 Batch	Funds Collected. Job will start on February	6.6		
3	Painting - EOE Pereira Theatre	1.3	E66 Batch	Funds collected. Started January 3rd. Finish by 3rd week of February	1.3	1.3	75%
4	Painting - Drawing Office 01	1.8					
5	Painting - Drawing Office 02	2.7					
6	Painting - Material Lab	1.4					
7	Painting - Survey Lab	1.2					
8	Painting - Fluid Lab	1.2					
9	Painting - Thermodynamics Lab	1.4					
10	Painting - Engineering Workshop	2.5					
11	Painting - Structure Lab	1.5					
12	Painting - Lecture room 01	0.9					
13	Painting - Corridor	5.8					
14	Painting - Lecture room 02	1.1					
15	Painting - Engineering Library External and other minor repairs	2.3	E72 Batch	Funds Ready. Do by batch. Ref Eng. Pathmasiri. Start by April	2.3		
16	Painting - Generator room	0.3	E03 Batch	Funds Received to PEFAA	0.3	0.3	
17	Painting - High Voltage Lab	0.6					
18	Painting - Electrical & Electronic Workshop	0.5					

19	Painting - Environmental Lab	0.4					
20	Painting - Manufacturing Department	0.5					
21	Painting - Applied Mechanics Lab	1.2					
22	Painting - Engineering Library Internal / Window Repairs / Ceiling Repair and Painting.		E72 Batch	Funds Ready. Do by Batch. Started 25th Jan. End by end March			70%
23	Painting - Civil Office	0.2	E99 Batch	Funds Received to PEFAA	0.2	0.2	
24	Painting - Chemical & Process Engineering Lab	1.8					
25	Painting - Maths Department	3.4					
26	Painting - Computer Engineering	1.2					
27	Painting - New Mechanics Lab	1.6					
28	Painting - Electronic Lab	1					
29	Painting - Washroom	0.3	E08 Batch	Funds collected.	0.3		
30	Repairing - Drain and Drain Covers	0.4	E76 Batch	0.12 mn from E76 batch contribution.			
31	Repairing - Valance Boards	0.3	E72 Batch	Do by E72 Batch (to be Negotiated)			
32-1	Repairing - Main Corridor Slabs Expansion Joints and water proofing	1	E76 Batch . (1 mn)	Funds deposited in PEFAA Account. Ready to award the contract. Start Early March	1	1.0	5%
32-2	Repairing - Main Corridor Slabs Expansion Joints and water proofing	1.1	E83 Batch	Funds deposited in PEFAA Account. Ready to award the contract. Start Early March	1.1	1.1	5%
33	Repairing - Other Corridor Slabs Expansion Joints and water proofing	4					

34	Renovation of Female toilets - Manufacturing - 01 / Near DO1 -01	3	E85 Batch	Funds deposited to PEFAA account. Job start End February	3.0	3.8	5%
35	Renovation of Male Toilets						
35-1	Washrooms at Admin Building Ground floor - 2 units	1.5	E86 Batch	Funds collected. Will begin in March 2025.	1.5	1.6	10%
35-2	Washroom #2 (DO-I)	1.3	E87 Batch	Funds collected. Will begin Mid-February	1.3	2.1	10%
35-3	Washroom #3 (DO-II)	1.4	E76 Batch	Funds collected. Will begin in March 2025.	1.4	1.4	10%
35-4	Washrooms at Admin Building 1st floor -2 units	1.4	E76 Batch	Funds collected. Will begin in March 2025.	1.4	1.4	10%
35-5	Hand Cleaning Equipment	0.4	E76 Batch	Funds collected. Will begin in March 2025.	0.4	0.4	10%
36	Repairing - Other minor repairs and electrical works	2	LTL	At Admin building. Identification done			5%
37	Quality Controlling & QC staffing Cost (Engineer & Supervisor)	1.5	Sponsor		0.3	0.3	100%

List of Learning Process Development Projects and Commitments

No	Department	Project Title	Cost (Rs. Millions)	Taken By	Funds / Status	Amount Pledged	Amount Received	Progress
1	Common	Establishing a smart lecture room for recording lecturers to produce recorded teaching materials for the use of all lecturers of the Faculty	10.0					
2-1	Common	Update 20 lecture rooms with state of art equipment Hall Nos. 2 & 3	4.0	E78 Batch	Installation completed. Relocated the projector screen. Pending handing over. 98% completed	4		98%
2-2	Common	Update 20 lecture rooms with state of art equipment Hall No.7 (1.3 Mn)	1.3	E80 Batch	Requirement identification completed. Bidding process is ongoing. RFQ is ready	1.3		10%
2-3	Common	Update 20 lecture rooms with state of art equipment Hall No.8 (2.0 Mn)	2.0	E97 Batch	Requirement identification completed. Bidding process is ongoing. RFQ is ready	2.1		10%
2-4	Common	Update 20 lecture rooms with state of art equipment Hall 09 & Room 17 (2.0 Mn)	2.0	E77 Batch	Design stage. Technical specification under preparation. Doing by Batch (Eng Sarath Gamini)	2.0		5%
2-5	Common	Update 20 lecture rooms with state of art equipment Hall No 10 & 11 (2.0 Mn)	2.0	E78 Batch	Supplier selected & contract signed. End March completion. MOU to be signed	2.0		25%
2-6	Common	Update 20 lecture rooms with state of art equipment	1.0			1.0		
		New Project - WIFI coverage equipment ???		E67 Batch	5 Mn Ready. Project not selected. to be discussed with Faculty Dean			

3	Common	Upgrading lecture Rooms at Drawing Office 01 Ground Floor	5.0					
4	Common	24/7 e-access facility for upper floor rooms at library premises	1.5	E64 Batch	Design done. Donors OK. LBMC Approval needed. Eng Sampath ref	1.5		5%
5	Common	Discussion chamber at Library	2.0	E72 Batch	Required materials to be finalized with the help of Eng. Workshop. Quotations to be called for materials	2		5%
6	Common	Visitor lounge at the admin building	0.5	E82 Batch		0.5		
7	Common	Washroom for visitors at the admin building	0.8	E82 Batch		0.8		
8	Common	Upholster Department Furniture	0.3		Ask from AR			
9	Common	Pera Ride Automated Bicycle Sharing System	1		Proposal to be re evaluated			Postponed
10	Common	Dust Extractors for Lecture Rooms	1	E72 Batch	Proposal under preparation. (Donation by Eng. Y.K.A Yapa)	1		Postponed
11	Chemical	Multifunctional Learning and Teaching Facility for 50 students	3.9	E74 Batch	Completed. Final payment to be done	3.9		99%
12	Computer	Computer vision and Artificial Intelligence Lab	13.5	LTL	Proposal is being clarifying Dr. Upul			
13	Computer	Install a lift for 5 storied computer engineering building to allow physically impaired students to attend classes and laboratories	9.5	E70 Batch	Tender awarded to DIMO. 31st May completion. Civil works parallelly.	9.5		20%

14	Computer	Emergency Fire Exit for the 5 storied computer engineering building	1.5						Postponed
15	Computer	Open Lab for students to work 24x7	4	Eng. Lanka Shantha (E75 Batch)	Prof. Ragel and Eng. Lanka Shantha communicated	4			2%
16	Electrical	Development of Robot City and Intelligence Laboratory	1	E74 Batch	Supplier selected. TT Transfer via BOC by batch.	1			10%
17	Electrical	Establishing a state of the art (SCADA) Lab	7	E62 Batch	Specification completed. Bids called From UK	7	7		15%
18	Electrical	Electronic Equipment for Project Area	2.8	E78 Batch	Specification completed. Bids to be called. Ref Eng. Nihal				5%
19	Electrical	Interior Design & Furnishing Entrance	5						Postponed
20	Mechanical	Air conditioned enclosure for the CNC machine	0.7	E99 Batch	Funds Received to PEFAA. To be followed.	0.7	0.7		0%
21	Mechanical	Multimedia Projectors for Drawing Office 1 (DOI)	0.6	E78 Batch	Pending installation by ANSCOM 5000 Lumens	0.6			60%
22	Mechanical	Renovation of the floor in the Applied Thermodynamics Lab	4						Postponed
23	Manufacturing	Restoring /repairing the existing Hardware for Research work	1.2						Postponed
24	Manufacturing	The functioning of Industrial Robotics lab	1.2	E89 Batch	Completed.	1.2	1.2		99%
25	Manufacturing	Funding Mechanism to undergraduate Projects/Research	0.4	E99 Batch	Funds Received to PEFAA. Method of expenses to be discussed	0.4	0.4		
26	Manufacturing	Improvement of Teaching-Learning Environment	1	E90 Batch	Bid processing	1.0	1.0		5%

27	Manufacturing	Water Proofing and Sealing of Water leak at Basement	16					Postponed
28	Civil	Upgrading CAD Lab: 2 workstations Stage1	5	E73 Batch & E75 Batch	Stage 01 completed by E73 – Rs.3M . Balance to be funded by E75 – Rs.2.23 Mn	3.1		60%
29	Civil	Simulation Server for CAD Lab Stage 2	13					
30	Civil	Transportation and Simulation Lab	2	E90 Batch	Ref. Dr. Wasantha, Eng Laxman	1.0	1.4	
31	Comp. Center	Providing 50 Computers 2024	15	E89 Batch (6 computers 1.8 M) / E75 - 2M	Quotations Received. Need to place the order	1.8	1.8	
35	Ind. Training	Upgrading the common room at ITCGU	0.9			0.9		Postponed
36	Ind. Training	IPads for mentoring and assessing students	0.7	E90 Batch	Completed	0.7		100%
37	Mechanical	Extension of Computer center of Thermodynamics lab	0.4	E86 Batch	Completed	0.58	0.58	95%
38	Civil	Multimedia Projectors 2 Nos. And sound system for Drawing Office 2 (DO II)	1.8	E78 Batch	Pending installation by ANSCOM 5000 Lumens	1.8		60%
39	Common	Construction of steel staircase at AR office to Upper floor	2.0	E93 Batch	Construction Completed	2		100%
40	Common	Supply and Install 5500 Lumens Multimedia projector and accessories for zoom meeting facilities for EOE Pereira theater (Room #01)	0.8	E66 Batch	Bid calling stage	0.8	0.8	
41	Common	Weather station to measure air quality		E82 Batch	Donation by Dr.Larif zabuir 82. To be installed by PEFAA			

Unveiling of Jubilee Plaque

A jubilee plaque was opened in front of the Faculty premises on 06th February 2025.



Faculty News

Engineering Faculty applied Artificial Intelligence to this new invention

By Shane Seneviratne (Daily Mirror, Feb 26, 2025)



Engineering Faculty of Peradeniya University has developed a camera to save wild elephants from being run over by trains. The camera system based on Artificial Intelligence is to be fitted to the railway engine that signals the driver to identify any object 500 metres ahead of the train. Head of the Faculty of Engineering Prof. Lilantha Samaranayake said CCTV cameras that signal objects at a distance of 500 metres have not yet been invented and that the Engineering Faculty applied Artificial Intelligence to this new invention. Prof. Samaranayake said the Engineering Faculty had been experimenting with an effective mechanism to save wild elephants from train accidents. He said it is not possible to stop a train at once and that the driver could identify the wild elephants crossing the railway line well on time through this camera system and will be in a position to stop the train.

Prof. Lilantha Samaranayake's Note

Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) in Sri Lanka, dating back to the 1940s, stems from the relocation of elephants near rural settlements. Efforts to mitigate this issue have included directing elephant movements to protected areas like natural parks and designated forest zones. However, due to capacity limitations and other factors, elephant encroachments into human habitats have surged. Presently, elephants frequently raid civilian homes for food, affecting 44% of the country's land where people reside alongside these animals. The concentration of elephants, notably in the North, East, and Northeastern provinces, heightens risks along railway lines, resulting in collisions with trains. These collisions not only claim the lives of Ceylon wild elephants, an endangered species, but also inflict significant financial losses, amounting to approximately Rs. 40 million per incident for Sri Lanka Railways.

Thanks to funding from the IEEE Robotics & Automation Society Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technologies (SIGHT) and NVIDIA Inc., we've created a comprehensive solution utilizing Artificial Intelligence based Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) technology. This solution employs RGB/infrared-capable cameras to detect elephants even in low-light conditions. Field trials, conducted by installing this system on trains, have shown its ability to detect elephants up to 500 meters ahead, providing ample time for train operators to react. Additionally, we've developed a still camera solution fixed on tall posts to monitor bends, crests, and valleys along the track. These modules utilize GSM communication technology to alert the train in motion, ensuring that operators receive real-time information at the driver console in the train's engine compartment.

The prototype to be deployed on trains is shown in Figure below:



A Facebook Post

Prof. Roshan Ragel was honored with the Gold Medal for Computing at The National Educator Awards (NEA) 2024

The National Educator Awards (NEA) 2024 is an initiative to honor outstanding educators across Sri Lanka who have contributed exceptionally to their academic disciplines. Organized by the National Educator Awards Committee and supported by the Ministry of Education to foster excellence in teaching and learning.

More : <https://www.pdn.ac.lk/prof-roshan-ragel-was-honored-with.../>



Prof. Roshan Ragel Makes History with the 2025 Mary Kenneth Keller Award

UoP News



Prof. Roshan Ragel from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, has achieved a historic milestone as the first academic from the Global South to receive the 2025 IEEE Computer Society Mary Kenneth Keller Computer Science & Engineering Undergraduate Teaching Award.

This prestigious honor recognizes his outstanding contributions to undergraduate education through innovative teaching, impactful research, and dedicated service, fostering an inclusive community of experiential mentorship for undergraduates in Sri Lanka.

Since its inception, this award has been given 25 times, predominantly to faculty from top U.S. institutions. Recent recipients include Margaret Ellis (2024, Virginia Tech) for fostering inclusive experiential learning, Carla B. Zoltowski (2023, Purdue) for leadership in multidisciplinary engineering education, Nanette Veilleux (2022, Simmons University) for supporting young women in STEM, Harry Lewis (2021, Harvard) for over 40 years of impact on computer science education, and Andre DeHon (2020, Penn) for transforming computer engineering curricula.

Prof. Ragel's recognition not only highlights his individual excellence but also marks a major step toward global inclusivity in academic recognition. His contributions extend beyond the classroom, influencing AI, IoT, and embedded systems curricula, and expanding technology education in Sri Lanka. He has mentored over 300 undergraduate researchers and co-authored 200+ papers, receiving accolades such as the Best Computer Scientist in Sri Lanka (2023-2025) and the National Educator Gold Award for Computing (2024). His leadership in LEARN and the Asi@Connect Project has transformed Sri Lanka's research and education networks, while his role in the Presidential AI Strategy Committee, National AI Advisory Committee and AI Forum for Academics (AIFA) shapes the country's AI landscape. Notably, the award has only been given to a handful of educators outside North America and Europe, making this recognition a significant milestone for the Global South.

This award reaffirms his pioneering role in advancing engineering education in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Linkedin Post*ML4AD Best Paper Award*

- [Aleksandr Petiushko](#)
- [PhD; Sr. Director, Head of AI Research @ Gatik; Professor @ Sofia University](#)
- Hey self-driving enthusiasts, academics, engineers, and the broader community! I'm super excited to announce the Best Perception Award at [ML4AD](#) (Machine Learning for Autonomous Driving) Workshop sponsored by [Gatik](#). The outstanding paper is...: "A Spatiotemporal Approach to Tri-Perspective Representation for 3D Semantic Occupancy Prediction" by [Sathira Silva*](#), [Savindu Wannigama*](#), [Gihan Jayatilaka](#), Muhammad Haris Khan, [Roshan G. Ragel](#). The authors proposed to compliment a spatial-only Tri-Perspective View approach (TPV Former) with temporal axis and designed the so-called Spatiotemporal Tri-Perspective View architecture (S2TPVFormer). Congratulations!

Paper link: https://lnkd.in/g4_Qm7YW

ML4AD website: <https://ml4ad.github.io>



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Presenter's Note:

There were attendees representing most self-driving companies (except Tesla :-)) and they had good questions about our work. **I mentioned this was undergrad work at the start of my talk and a bunch of people wanted to know what sort of undergrads do this type of work** [the only undergrad first author paper accepted to the conference]

Editor's Comment:

Had a Tesla representative been there, Elon Musk would have advised Donald Trump to make an offer for UoP!

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**Peradeniya Engineering Faculty Alumni
Association (PEFAA)
Faculty of Engineering
University of Peradeniya
Prof. E.O.E. Pereira Mawatha
Peradeniya**



Online Membership application and Member
information updating form:
<https://forms.gle/DpssHnjXAUF9a4PF9>

PEFAA Office

Tel.: +94 81 312 1021, +94 81 239 3308

Email: pefaa@eng.pdn.ac.lk,
secretary.pefaa@gmail.com

PEFAA FB page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pefaaofficial>

Web:

<https://www.pefaa.net>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@pefaa2310>

LinkedIn group:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14097092/>