

NEWSLETTER

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

MARCH 2026

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – PROF. SIRIL WIJESUNDARA



It has been a profound honour to once again serve as the President of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya. While I have had the privilege of serving three terms previously, this short period of service has been particularly significant, as it coincides with one of the most challenging moments in the recent history of our alma mater.

The Annual General Meeting this year is held in the aftermath of the devastating Ditwah Cyclone that struck in late November, leaving the University of Peradeniya badly affected. The damage to infrastructure, the disruption to academic life, and the strain placed on students, staff, and administrators have been immense. Peradeniya is not merely a collection of buildings; it is a living institution, a landscape of learning, culture, and shared memory. Seeing it wounded has been deeply painful for all who hold it close to their hearts.

At such a time, the true strength of a university is revealed not only through its administration or staff, but through the enduring commitment of its alumni. As graduates of Peradeniya, we carry a lifelong responsibility to the institution that shaped our intellect, character, and values. This is a moment that calls for unity, generosity, and purposeful action. I earnestly call upon all alumni—wherever you may be—to rally around our alma mater, to contribute in whatever ways possible, whether through financial assistance, professional expertise, advocacy, or simply by standing in solidarity. As I conclude this term of office, I extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Association, the Executive Committee, and all alumni who have worked tirelessly in support of our shared mission. Let us reaffirm our commitment to the University of Peradeniya, supporting it through all circumstances to inspire future generations.

Website: <https://site.pdn.ac.lk/alumni/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/149154311160>

BECOME A

MEMBER TODAY



MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – PROF. DEEPTHI BANDARA

As we approach our **Annual General Meeting on March 22, 2026**, I find myself reflecting on what it truly means to be a graduate of our esteemed University. Our identity as alumni is not just a record on a degree certificate; it is a lifelong membership in a community of leaders, thinkers, and change-makers. This past year has tested that community in ways we never expected. From the challenges of the devastating floods that impacted our campus to the rapid shift toward a digital economy, we have had to prove our resilience. And time and again, our alumni—have risen to the occasion. Our network is only as strong as the people who engage

with it. Today, the Alumni Association is evolving. We are moving beyond being a purely social network to becoming a **strategic powerhouse**. Whether you are a recent graduate just starting your career or a seasoned professional at the height of your industry, the Association offers a platform to both mentor others and be mentored yourself, thereby fostering connections and bridging the gap between generations of talent. You are also encouraged to help drive innovation by ensuring that our university's growth remains aligned with the evolving demands of the digital era. Furthermore, by giving back, you can support the infrastructure of our Alma Mater and provide much-needed assistance to its students during critical times.

To those who have been with us for years: **Thank you** for your unwavering loyalty. To those who have not yet officially joined or have drifted away: **I invite you, home**. Your expertise, your voice, and your presence are the building blocks of our future.

36th AGM of AAUP- March 23, 2025

The 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the AAUP, presided over by Prof. Siril Wijesundara, was convened on Sunday, **23rd March 2025 at 9:00 am** at the **Diamond Jubilee Hall Auditorium, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya**. Dr. Romesh Ranawana, Chair of the National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee, served as Chief Guest.

The event was also attended by Prof. Terrance Madujith, Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Patron of the AAUP, along with Professor Ranjith Pallegama, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, and Directors of Postgraduate Institutes of University of Peradeniya. The proceedings commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the traditional oil lamp. The President of the AAUP welcomed all invitees and members. A highlight of the AGM was the felicitation of Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake. Following the election of office bearers for the forthcoming year, participants adjourned for fellowship.



AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS

AAUP Scholarships/ Merit Awards awarded at the AGM 23rd March 2024

	Student Name	Award
1	C. H. Weerasinghe	Prof. K.N. Jayathilake Memorial Scholarship Best Performance in Buddhism and Indian Philosophy at the First Examination, Faculty of Arts
2	M.D.R.T.I. Molligoda	Prof. B. L. T. De Silva Memorial Scholarship Best Performance in Biology I at the First Examination, Faculty of Science
3	C. Herath	Prof. I. Balasooriya Memorial Scholarship Best Performance in Botany at the 300 level Examination (Special degree in Botany), Faculty of Science
4	T. M. A. V. Tennakoon	Prof. Ashley Halpe Memorial Scholarship Best Performance in English at the First Examination, Faculty of Arts
5	K. D. U. K. Amarasinghe	Mr. Y.W. Gunawardana Memorial Scholarship Best Performance in Geography at the First Examination, Faculty of Arts
6	L.B.W.W. Wickramasooriya	Prof. H.W. Dias Scholarship Best Performance in Chemistry at the 3rd year Examination (Special degree in Chemistry), Faculty of Science

AAUP Annual Trips

The first annual trip of AAUP was held at Dihippawa Resort on September 6th and 7th, 2025, located approximately 20 kilometers from Dambulla. Thirty-six members attended the event, which featured two days of engaging activities, including a BBQ gathering. The occasion provided an enjoyable and enriching experience for all participants.



The second trip of AAUP was to Passikudah on 7th and 8th March 2026 with forty-six participants. This trip was perfectly planned by Dr. Anura Danthanarayana, to whom participants extended their heartfelt thanks for organizing such an enjoyable and magical experience.



COLOMBO CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS/MERIT AWARDS

Awarded at the AGM 23rd March 2025

	Student Name	Award
1.	N.N. Rajamanthri	Mr. Wijitha Malewana Memorial Scholarship Best performance at the 1 st year examination, Faculty of Science
2.	N.C. Udayanga	Mr. Wijitha Malewana Memorial Scholarship Best performance at the 1 st year examination, Faculty of Science
3.	C. J. Abeysekara	Mr. Eramudugolla Dunuwila Scholarship Best performance for Mathematics at the 1 st year examination, Faculty of Science
4.	S.H. Koswatta	Mr. Eramudugolla Dunuwila Scholarship Best performance for Mathematics at the 1 st year examination, Faculty of Science
5.	W.E.G.M.H. Welagedara	Mr. Eramudugolla Dunuwila Scholarship Best performance for Mathematics at the 1 st year examination, Faculty of Science
6.	N.N. Rajamanthri	1980 Science Faculty Batch Scholarship Best performance at the 1 st year examination in Physical Science, Faculty of Science
7.	N.C. Udayanga	1980 Science Faculty Batch Scholarship Best performance at the 1 st year examination in Physical Science, Faculty of Science
8.	C. Herath	Dr Priyantha Jayawardana Scholarship Best performance at the 3 rd year examination of the Special Degree in Botany, Faculty of Science
9.	Isuru Sadeep	Mr. C.W. Jayasekara Memorial Scholarship Best performance at the 2 nd year examination, Faculty of Science
10.	Isuru Sadeep	Mr. Duminda Abeyratne Scholarship Best performance at the 2 nd year examination in Biological Science, Faculty of Science
11.	S. T. Wittachchi	Mr. W. Karunajeewa Memorial Scholarship Best performance for the Management Theory & Practical course, Faculty of Management
12.	S. T. Wittachchi	Mr. Dhammika Gunaratne Memorial Scholarship Best performance at the 1 st year examination, Faculty of Management
13.	M. C. P. S. Kumara	Mr. Ranbanda Seneviratne Memorial Scholarship Best performance for Sinhala at the 1 st year examination from Anuradhapura District, Faculty of Arts
14.	D. Tharmarajan	Mr. Godwin Perera Memorial Scholarship Best performance at the 2 nd year examination in Geography & Economics, Faculty of Arts
15.	P.H.U. Isurandi	Innovative Pesticides Marketing (Pvt) Ltd. Scholarship Best performance at the 1 st year examination, Faculty of Agriculture
16.	J. A. K. S. Jayasuriya	Dr S.K.Karunaratne & Mrs Sujatha Scholarship The most deserving student of the SNRC

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Renovation Project of Green Room of Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra Open-Air Theatre

The Executive Committee of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP), in consultation with the University Administration, artists, and AAUP members, initiated a renovation project in 2019, and decided to renovate the Green Room of the Sarachchandra Open-Air Theatre.



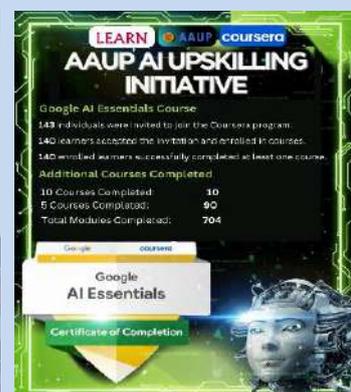
A fundraising was initiated on 3rd January 2024, and an eminent alumnus Mr. SACM Zuhyle, a co-author of the coffee table book "Garden University of Peradeniya", generously supported the funding gap of funds by donating 100 coffee table books to be sold. The project commenced following the 390th AAUP ExCo meeting approval and was completed within the stipulated timeframe. Throughout the process, AAUP officials demonstrated active involvement and commitment, reinforcing their dedication to enhancing university infrastructure and fostering an improved environment for the academic community.

AAUP Participation in the LEARN-Coursera AI Upskilling Programme

AI Skills Week 2025, organized by LEARN in collaboration with the University of Peradeniya, was successfully conducted in July 2025 as a landmark national AI capacity-building initiative, bringing together alumni, academics, students, and professionals to advance AI literacy across Sri Lanka. The first day (Monday, 14 July) was conducted with the participation of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP), marking AAUP's official engagement in the programme. During the session, special attention was given to the Google AI Essentials certification programme, highlighting its importance in strengthening AI literacy and enhancing professional skills relevant to modern digital workplaces.

The Google AI Essentials certification programme, organized by LEARN in collaboration with Coursera, was implemented as part of a nationwide AI upskilling initiative, with strong participation from AAUP members. At the national level, 2,500 enrolled, and 1,408 successfully completed at least one course, demonstrating strong national engagement.

Within the AAUP community, 143 members were invited, 140 enrolled, and all 140 completed at least one course, achieving a 100% completion rate among enrolled participants. This initiative contributed meaningfully to enhancing AI awareness and digital competencies aligned with globally recognized standards.



Donation for Student Participants at the World University Games

The AAUP Executive Committee decided to award Rs. 50,000.00 to a student named I.P. Liyanage (Registration No: M/23/111) who participated Swimming (Men's) event in the World University Games (WUG) 2025 in Germany from July 17 to July 27, 2025. To raise the necessary funds, Mr. S.A.C.M. Zuhyle, on behalf of the Sir Ivor Jennings Endowment Trust Fund, contributed 40 copies of the University of Peradeniya Coffee Table Book, with each copy to be sold at Rs. 5,000.00 to raise the required amount.



Donation to the Sarasavi Madura Hostel



A donation of 25 cupboards was made to the Sarasavi Madura Hostel, generously funded by the Victoria Chapter, Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya. This initiative highlights AAUP's ongoing commitment to enhancing student facilities and welfare.

Donation for University Hockey Tournaments



A sponsorship worth Rs. 600,000.00 was received from Professor Siva Sivanathan, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, to utilize the *Pera Sixes*- Invitational Hockey Tournaments. The AAUP Executive Committee approved the request made by the Director/ Physical Education Division, University of Peradeniya, to purchase ten (10) hockey sticks from this sponsorship. The cheque was handed over to the captain of the University Hockey Team.

Donation of Educational Supplies to School Children



The Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP) recently organized a donation programme at CP/Denu Manikdiwela Central College, Menikdiwela, distributing educational supplies to local students, including those affected by recent floods. The event was attended by Ven Kahagala Seelananda, Assistant Educational Director, the President and officials of AAUP, the Principal of the school, and members of the teaching staff. Prof. Deepthi Bandara, AAUP President, thanked donor Ms. Yazhuo Xing for her generous support and highlighted the positive impact on students' education. The event reinforced AAUP's commitment to educational improvement and social responsibility.

PERA CONCEPT STORE

THE SHOP FOR AUTHENTIC PERA MERCHANDISE

The PERA Concept Store, inaugurated in August 2022 by the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP), serves as a platform for alumni and students to engage through exclusive university merchandise. Featuring a curated selection of apparel, accessories, and memorabilia, the store promotes a sense of pride and strengthens community ties within the university's global network. The Store is managed by the Standing Committee on Finance of AAUP, and Items are available both on-campus and the store located at Gatambe in Peradeniya road, ensuring easy access for alumni and visitors.

PERA Pop-Up Stalls: Bringing University Pride to Alumni and students



Pop up stall at the General Convocation 2024 held on on 23rd & 24th July, 2025



Foreign visitors from USA and India to the Pera Store-31-05-2025



Pop up stall-AGM-Ceylon College of Veterinary Surgeons-28-06-2025



Pop up stall-Faculty of Science 06-06-2025



Other Pop-up stalls

Sri Lanka Veterinary Association Conference stall - 22-08-2025

PGIS Congress stall on 07-11-2025

Fac. of Agriculture, Undergraduate Research symposium stall-07-11-2025

Data Science and AI Conference Stall-19th-20th-11-2025

PGIA Congress Stall 20-11-2025

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AAUP CONCEPT STORE
GATAMBE, PERADENIYA

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PERA

Magnanimous Gestures of Our Overseas Chapters

University of Peradeniya Alumni Association of USA (UPAA–USA)

Following the recent crisis resulting from unprecedented flooding, UPAA–USA has taken a leading role in supporting UOP's recovery and ongoing development. Through the generosity of one hundred contributors, the organization has collected \$20,000. Additionally, a corporate matching gift of \$5,000 has been secured, increasing the Emergency Relief Fund to a total of \$25,000. We have identified the Faculty of Management, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, and Faculty of Agriculture as the three faculties that have experienced the most significant damage and are expediting efforts to provide them with necessary support.



Visit of VC and university officials



Inter–University Softball Cricket Tournament

Vice Chancellor Professor Terance Madujith, accompanied by seven senior university officials, conducted an official visit to the United States in September, 2025. During this tour, the delegation engaged with UPAA–USA members in the Greater Washington, D.C. region, facilitating opportunities for networking, collaboration, and social interaction. Professor Kapila Seneviratne, Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), participated as a distinguished guest.

UPAA–USA, in collaboration with the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association (CUFSAA), organized the second Sri Lanka Inter–University Softball Cricket Tournament on October 18th at Warminster Community Park, Warminster, PA. The event featured approximately forty players from the Universities of Peradeniya, Colombo, and Moratuwa, and was attended by over one hundred Sri Lankan spectators. The University of Colombo team secured the Champions Trophy, while the Masters Trophy was awarded to the University of Peradeniya.



UPAA–USA Exco 2025



2025 Annual Gathering



Winners of (I–TO–I) Competition 2025

The University of Peradeniya Alumni Association in the United States of America (UPAA–USA) has successfully concluded the inaugural Ideas To Invention (I–TO–I) Competition 2025. Supported by generous contributions from alumni, the top three teams were awarded seed funding as cash prizes: Rs. 150,000 for first place, Rs. 100,000 for second place, and Rs. 50,000 for third place. Furthermore, four teams received sponsorship to present their projects at the 19th International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS), which took place on January 16–17, 2026, at the University of Peradeniya.

The 2025 Annual Alumni Gathering and Fundraiser of UPAA–USA was held successfully on October 11th at the Hilton Garden Inn Reception Hall in Pearland, Texas. The event was attended by approximately 240 Pera alumni as well as local Sri Lankan community members.

UPAA–USA member Kamal Seneviratne was invited as a guest speaker at a session organized by the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Peradeniya. The session offered comprehensive insights into PhD programs, research funding opportunities, and academic as well as professional career pathways in the United States, with a focus on Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience.

Peradeniya University Alumni Australia Victoria Chapter (PUAAViC)

The inaugural drama production, "Thambapanni" featuring both alumni and local cast members, was successfully staged on October 25, 2025. A fundraising event was conducted on Father's Day, 7th September 2025.

The Annual Cricket Match between Peradeniya and Kelaniya Alumni was held on 26 January, 2026 for the fifteenth consecutive year, attracting a significant number of attendees. Peradeniya Alumni won the main match, while Kelaniya Alumni secured wins in both the Veterans cricket match and the netball match.



Annual Cricket Match between Peradeniya and Kelaniya Alumni

University of Peradeniya Alumni Association– Western Australia Chapter

On October 28, 2025, a donation of Rs 1.5 million was transferred to the Parent Body (AAUP) for the Studentship Fund. The Western Australia Chapter of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya hosted its annual flagship event, **Hanthana Night 2025**, on September 13, 2025. The event achieved notable fundraising success, with all proceeds allocated to studentships supporting undergraduates experiencing financial hardship, thereby facilitating access to higher education.



Annual Fundraiser Hanthana Night 2025

The evening's program featured performances by renowned Sri Lankan artists: acclaimed male vocalist **Clifford Richards** and distinguished female vocalist **Corrine Almeida**. On October 28, 2025, a donation of Rs 1.5 million was formally transferred to the Parent Body (AAUP) in support of the Studentship Fund. The Inter-university Netball Carnival took place on Sunday, 21 September 2025. Seven teams participated in the event, representing six Sri Lankan universities as well as a combined team from Western Australian universities.

Peradeniya Alumni Association of NSW (PUAAN) Chapter



Social event and fundraiser project

On October 18, 2025, the Association hosted a social event and fundraiser for its members and invited guests. A barbecue event was organized as a fundraising activity on 30 August 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FACULTY ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA SCIENCE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UPSAA)

In 2025, the University of Peradeniya Science Alumni Association (UPSAA) undertook a series of initiatives designed to improve both the academic and social welfare of undergraduate students, along with the academic and non-academic members of staff at the university.

To promote the mental well-being of the university community, UPSAA organized a speech and activity titled "Study-Life Balance with Music" for first-year students of the Faculty of Science, by Mr. Nalaka Akurange, an alumnus of the faculty, as the resource person. Additionally, a guest lecture on 'Anger Management' was delivered by Rev. Ethkandawaka Saddhajeewa Thero, Co-Abbot of The West Virginia Bhavana Society, USA.

UPSAA maintained its ongoing scholarships and studentships, including the Dr. Buddika Dassanayake Memorial Scholarship, studentships by Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne and Mr. Dinusha Wickramaarachchi, as well as the studentship established by Dr. Kapila Wijeratne. Funds were allocated to eligible recipients selected by the Student Advisory, Welfare, and Grievances Committee (SAWGC).

UPSAA has announced the recipients of its 2026 awards. Miss V. N. Premathilake (S/20/127) received the Prof. Sultanbawa Memorial Award, while Mr. P.A.S.S. Pathiraja (S/20/466) was granted the Ranjith Guruge Memorial Scholarship for 2026, both as nominated by the Head of the Department of Chemistry. Additionally, Miss G.O. Kavishka (S/20/087) was awarded the Prof. S. Balasubramaniam Memorial Award for 2026, following her nomination by the Head of the Department of Botany.

UPSAA contributed to the enhancement of laboratory facilities within the Faculty of Science by coordinating a donation of \$1200 to Professor H.M.N. Bandara for the acquisition of electronic laboratory equipment for the Department of Chemistry. The funds were transferred by Dr. Dimuthu Jayawickrama of AAUP-USA following a request from Professor H.M.N. Bandara.

To facilitate fundraising efforts, the UPSAA organized a photo booth within the Science Faculty premises on 23rd and 24th July 2025, coinciding with the 86th General Convocation at the University of Peradeniya.

A one-day excursion to Nawalapitiya was organized to foster engagement among UPSAA members.

The activities for the year 2025 were carried out under the guidance and leadership of UPSAA President, Prof. Swarna Wimalasiri; Secretary, Dr. Thiloka Ariyasena; and Treasurer, Mr. Kumudu Wijesooriya.



Mr. Nalaka Akurange – the event 'Study-Life Balance with Music'



Speech on Anger Management by 'Rev. Ethkandawaka Saddhajeewa'



Annual trip to Nawalapitiya organized by UPSAA



Donation of electronic lab equipment to Department of Chemistry

We earnestly invite our current members to encourage former faculty colleagues and friends to join our association. We would appreciate your support in introducing at least one new member to our organization.



Prof. Swarna Wimalasiri



Fundraising activity organized by UPSAA – a photo booth

PERADENIYA MEDICAL SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (PeMSAA)

A Year of Responsive Action and Global Engagement – March 2025 to February 2026

The Peradeniya Medical School Alumni Association (PeMSAA), established in 1992 and known as the oldest medical alumni association in Sri Lanka, has completed a highly productive year from March 2025 to February 2026. The year was marked by responsive action during times of need, meaningful support for faculty infrastructure, and strengthened engagement with the global alumni community. The 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 20th March 2026, at which Prof. Indu Nanayakkara assumed office as President, succeeding Prof. Heshan Jayaweera. During the year, the association continued to expand its membership base, welcoming 86 new alumni and bringing the total membership to 1,512.

Supporting Students in Crisis: In December 2025, the association activated its Student Crisis Fund in response to urgent student welfare needs. Within one month, nearly Rs. 2 million was raised through the generous contributions of alumni. These funds enabled the association to provide critical support to seven students facing significant personal and financial challenges, including assistance with housing, furniture, and essential utilities.

Enhancing Faculty Infrastructure: PeMSAA also continued to facilitate several alumni-funded infrastructure initiatives to strengthen the Faculty of Medicine. Projects currently underway include the renovation of the Prof. Senaka Bibile Hall, the installation of a new water storage tank, improvements to the Skills Laboratory facilities, and the refnovation of the faculty boardroom. These initiatives reflect the enduring commitment of alumni to supporting the academic

Strengthening Global Alumni Ties: Global alumni engagement was further strengthened during the year. The President of PeMSAA and the Dean of the Faculty attended the PeMSAA UK Annual Ball and the Waruganam Memorial Lecture in the United Kingdom upon invitation from the PeMSAA UK Chapter. This visit reaffirmed the strong partnership with the UK alumni network, who expressed their continued commitment to supporting faculty welfare initiatives, student development, and fundraising activities, while also strengthening ties and continuing the initiatives supported by the PeMSAA Australasia Chapter.

Expanding Academic Reach: Academic engagement also remained vibrant. A successful Regional Clinical Meeting was held at the General Hospital, Nawalapitiya. The popular “PeMSAA Evening Talk Series” continued to attract strong participation. These sessions, featuring experienced university and outstation consultants, were complemented by well-received MCQ discussions and clinical case sessions for fourth- and final-year medical students.



President and the Dean`s visit to PeMSAA UK Annul Ball 2025



Joint regional Clinical Meeting held in collaboration with PeMSAA and Nawalapitiya Clinical Society



PeMSAA evening talk series

Looking Ahead: Looking ahead, preparations are underway for the PeMSAA Academic Congress 2026, scheduled for November. As the association continues to grow, PeMSAA remains committed to strengthening its global alumni network while advancing initiatives that support students and faculty development.

VETERINARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF PERADENIYA (VAAP)

Following the severe inundation caused by Cyclone Ditwah, several facilities of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (FVMAS), University of Peradeniya, sustained extensive damage. These included the Department of Farm Animal Production and Health building, the Large Animal Hospital, the Centre for Aquatic Animal Disease Diagnosis and Research (CAADDR), the Biochemistry Building, the student canteen and common room, the examination hall, and the wild animal enclosure facility.

In response, the Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya (VAAP), together with its sister associations the Association for Companion Animal Practitioners of Sri Lanka (ACAPSL) and Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA), launched a comprehensive fundraising campaign to support the rebuilding of the country's only Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. The VAAP established a Faculty Rebuild Committee (VAAP-FVMAS Rebuild), a central Fundraising Committee, and batch-wise fundraising committees to coordinate these efforts.

Over 10 million rupees were raised through the generous support of alumni, the public, well-wishers, and industry partners, as well as a Dialog Star Points donation campaign jointly organized by VAAP and ACAPSL via the Karuna.lk platform. Approximately Rs.4 million has been allocated to the three departments most impacted, enabling cleaning, refurbishment, painting, equipment repairs, and replacement of essential minor equipment. These contributions significantly facilitated the resumption of the faculty's academic program.

VAAP sincerely thanks all respected alumni and well-wishers for their invaluable support in rebuilding and strengthening the one & only Veterinary Faculty in Sri Lanka.



Handover of Rs.500000/= to Head/Dept. of Basic Vet. Science



Handover of Rs.500000/= to Head/Vet. Pathobiology



Received 1 million contributions from ACAPSL to VAAP

EMERGENCY APPEAL
FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
Every Donation Matters Help Us Rebuild

One and Only Veterinary Faculty in Sri Lanka - University of Peradeniya
Suffered massive damage (Over 1BN LKR/ 3.5MN USD) from the recent Devastating weather
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Account No : 057100190040893
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SWIFT Code : PSBK LK LK
Reference : FVMAS REBUILD

Your donations would be utilized to commence the veterinary undergraduate teaching program & treating the animal patients

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www.vaap.lk

Peradeniya-Vet-Alt



RMCD 28/11/2025

CHAPTER NEWS



COLOMBO CHAPTER

Main Activities and Achievements (2025 / 26)

- **Fundraising Event:** Following deliberations regarding the extensive damage sustained by the University of Peradeniya during the floods and Cyclone Ditwah on 28th November 2025, the Management Council resolved to raise Rupees one million to initiate an independent project for the Rebuild Pera Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme. By 27 February 2026, AAUPCC and the Council successfully established a fund totaling Rs. One Million.
- **Sinhala & Hindu New Year Celebration:** On 27th April 2025, Members of Management Council (MC) participated in the "Avurudu Udanaya," which featured an Avurudu breakfast, games, and a fellowship lunch. The event was attended by 32 participants and their spouses
- **Annual Trip to Hambantota:** On August 30–31, 2025, 32 people from the Management Council, General Members, and their spouses took part in an educational trip to Hambantota International Port and Dry Zone Botanical Garden. The attendees enjoyed a musical evening and various recreational activities.
- **CSR Project on World Children's Day:** On 4th October 2025, the AAUPCC celebrated World Children's Day by providing meals and donating various supplies to the Gangodawila Girl's Child Development Centre of the All-Ceylon Buddhist Congress. Items donated included stationery, kitchenware, sanitary goods, footwear, LED bulbs, dairy, and dry food. Additionally, on 18th October, the AAUPCC organized lunch for children at the Jayanthi Child Development Centre.
- **Commemoration of Late Members:** On 23rd October 2025, the AAUPCC provided lunch, and some essential items to the forty-five residents of Paramitha Elders Home, Wanawasala Road, Kelaniya to bestow merits on their late members and families. Further necessary items were donated to support the ongoing maintenance and operations of the home.
- **Publicity:** Comprehensive publicity for the 11th term is ensured through print media coverage in three languages across all major newspapers to effectively disseminate the message to the entire audience.
- **Membership Drive:** Eighteen new members from multiple faculties have been enrolled in this year
- **Student Welfare:** The funds originally allocated for studentships have been redirected to support the Rebuild Pera Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme. Applications were called for a special cash award designated for children of AAUPCC members who are admitted to National Universities based on the 2024 G.C.E. (A/L) examination results.
- **Alumni Forum:** An educational excursion for MC Members was held at Diyasaru Wetland Park in Sri Jayawardenapura on 19 July 2025. A series of distinguished lectures were presented: "Sigiriya Reminiscences of a Field Archaeologist" by Prof. Anura Manathunga (28 August 2025), "Wilpattu: A Nature's Treasure" by Dr. Nishanthi Perera (25 September 2025), "Your Eyes Your Life" by Dr. Nalin Goonesinghe (30 October 2025), and "Sri Lanka's Creative Economy Pathway" by Prof. Nalin Abeysekera (29 January 2026).
- **Alumni Welfare:** Medical assistance was rendered to the MC member in June 2025
- **35th AAUPCC AGM:** Arrangements have been made to hold the 35th AGM at the SLIDA Auditorium on 29th March 2026.
- **Newsletter:** The biannual newsletter's e-version was published on 22 November 2025, and "Alumni News Issue 2 2025/26" e-version will launch on 29 March 2026
- **Demised Members:** It is with sincere regret that we announce the passing of two Life Members of AAUPCC during this term. We extend our condolences to their families.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA OTTAWA CHAPTER (AAUPOC)

Since its inception in 2012, the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – Ottawa Chapter (AAUPOC) has continued to thrive as a vibrant community bringing together Peradeniya graduates living in the Ottawa region, along with their families and friends. Beyond strengthening friendships and celebrating Sri Lankan culture, AAUPOC remains committed to supporting its alma mater by raising funds for students in need. With the generous support of members, sponsors, donors, and community friends, the association was able to fund **30 scholarships (LKR 1,800,000) this year** as well.

In addition, AAUPOC contributed **LKR 944,000 to the Faculty of Agriculture** and **LKR 840,000 to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science** to assist with replacing laboratory equipment damaged during Cyclone Dithwa. These contributions helped restore essential laboratory capacity and supported the continuation of teaching and research activities.

Gee Padura: The year opened on a vibrant and musical note with Gee Padura, held on May 3, 2025, at the Lion's Hall, Fred Barrett Arena. The event honored the iconic and beloved Sri Lankan musician Clarence Wijewardena, whose timeless music continues to inspire generations. With more than 150 attendees—including AAUPOC members and friends from the wider community—the evening was filled with warmth, energy, and a strong sense of nostalgia.



**Annual beach trip on the 16th of August 2025
Fitzroy Provincial Park (beach)**



**The 5th annual Walkathon Challenge
17 –26 September 26, 2025**

Hanthana Night: AAUPOC has successfully organized the Hanthana Night on the 15th of November at the Ukrainian Banquet and Convention Hall, 1000 Byron Ave, Ottawa, ON K2A 0J3. It was an evening filled with cultural dances, karaoke, an authentic Sri Lankan style buffet dinner, raffle draws, and much more.



The annual Friendly Cricket Match between AAUPOC and the Ottawa Cricket Club took place in July 2025. Hosted at the scenic cricket grounds of the Governor General's residence in Ottawa, the venue offered a uniquely picturesque and memorable backdrop for the event.

Nine-year-old Nathan Herath, son of AAUPOC alumni, has designed for the second consecutive year, a 2026 calendar featuring his original artwork, with 100% of the proceeds going directly to the AAUPOC scholarship fund.

Each of these events reflects the strength and unity that emerge when a community comes together with a common purpose. AAUPOC sincerely thanks all its members, community friends, sponsors, and donors, and extends special appreciation to the dedicated volunteers and organizing committees whose selfless efforts made these activities a success.

RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE AFTER CYCLONE DITWAH

LET US OVERCOME TOGETHER

On November 27–28, the Mahaweli River overflowed its banks, inundating extensive areas of the campus. In certain locations, floodwater reached nearly 16 feet, resulting in significant damage to the Faculties of Management, Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, and Agriculture. The destruction extended to student hostels, administrative units, sports facilities, and road networks. Critical infrastructure, including laboratories, server rooms, and document archives, was also severely affected. The cumulative estimated loss exceeds LKR 4 billion.

The Ditwah cyclone floods present considerable challenges yet also offer an opportunity to reconstruct the University of Peradeniya as a safer, more resilient, and disaster-prepared educational institution. Assistance from funding bodies and donors will be instrumental in restoring critical infrastructure, preserving the university's academic mission, and reinforcing the crucial role of science and education during crises. The University of Peradeniya respectfully invites your partnership and financial support to advance this restoration and resilience initiative for the benefit of current and future generations. The website: <https://site.pdn.ac.lk/UOPdonation/>; presents details of damaged faculties, restoration projects, and associated costs.

To ensure transparency and dedicated financial management, the AAUP has established the below "AAUP Flood Relief Fund 2025".

Account No: 76209734

Account Name: M/S Alumni Association AAUP Flood Relief 25

Address: Senate Building, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya 20400

Bank: Bank of Ceylon, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka





36TH AGM PHOTO GALLERY



37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the AAUP - Sunday, March 22, 2026

Contribute to the AAUP Newsletter
editor@alumni.pdn.ac.lk

Editor/AAUP
Pushpakanthie Wijekoon



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