

# NEWSLETTER

NIFS newsletter brings you the events and the research highlights of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies Sri Lanka.

## 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025: Symposium

*Annual Research Review 2024 – National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS)*

Chief Guest - Minister Hon. Dr. Chrishantha Abeysena M.P.

Keynote Address- Prof. Gomika Udugamasooriya (President's Senior Advisor on Science and Technology, University of Houston and the MD Anderson Cancer Research Center in the United States)



## 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025: Webinar

*"Why do most 3MT presentations fail, and how yours won't?"*

Speaker - Dr. Sumali Dissanayake, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

## 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025: Special Lecture

*"Cardiac regeneration in fish models of myocardial infarction"*

Speaker - Prof. Pascal Lafontant (Biology Professor - Prof. Pascal Lafontant teacher at Grinnell College in the US, and is based at University of Peradeniya for the year (2024-2025))

## 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025: Lab Visit

*Undergraduate students of the Botany Department, University of Peradeniya*

Microbial Biotechnology Unit laboratories  
Prof. G. Seneviratne, and Dr. M. Premarathna

## 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025: Visit

*Visit of Assistant High Commissioner of India*

Chief Guest - Ms. Saranya V.S, Assistant High Commissioner of India

## 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025: Special Visit

*Visit of High Commissioner of India*

Chief Guest - His Excellency Mr. Santosh Jha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka



## 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025: Competition

*Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition 2025*

Guest - Dr. Piyumali Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology, and Director of the Science-Industry Interaction Cell, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya/Dr. Dilani Hettiarachchi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, and a certified Toastmaster and NLP Practitioner/Dr. Sanjeewa Rodrigo, Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, The Open University of Sri Lanka/Mr. Manura Weerasinghe, a seasoned Toastmaster with over six years of experience in public speaking, is currently serving as the District Webmaster for Toastmasters District 82.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025: Workshop

*International Day for Biological Diversity 2025*

The welcome speech was delivered by the Secretary, Dr. Sunimal Jayathunge, Additional Secretary (Environment Development). Prof. Siril Wijesundara, Research Professor and Acting Director at the National Institute of Fundamental Studies, presented insights into the current state of Sri Lanka's biodiversity. Prof. Gamini Pushpakumara, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya, delivered the keynote speech on "Promoting Low-Consumption Food Systems." Ten bee boxes were presented to the nearby villagers by the Hon. Minister to promote community-based sustainable beekeeping.

## 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025: Special Lecture

*"Gel-based materials for thermoelectro-chemical cells"*

Speaker - Dr. Muhammad Siyar, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan

## 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025: Plenary Lecture

*"Circular Economy: Approaches in Food, Energy, and Environmental Systems"*

Sree Buddha College of Engineering, Kerala, India. Organized by the Department of Food Technology with the Kerala Academy of Sciences

Speaker - Prof. Lalith Jayasinghe

## 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025: Special event

*World Environment Day Celebration Program*

"Biodiversity Conservation" - Professor Siril Wijesundara  
"Air Pollution and its Adverse Effects Minimization" - Professor Dhammika Magana-Arachchi  
"Water and Water Resources Conservation" - Professor Rohan Weerasooriya  
"Tree Planting and World Environment Day" - Dr. Himesh Jayasinghe

## 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025: Special Lecture

*World Environment Day 2025 - Dharmaraja College, Kandy*

Guest Lecture - Dr. Mahesh Premarathna

## 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025: Workshop

*Environment Day School Science Workshop - Dharmaraja College  
Organized by Science Education and Dissemination Unit (SEDU)*

"Biodiversity of Sri Lanka" - Dr. Himesh Jayasinghe  
"Applications of Nanotechnology for Environmental Applications" - Dr. I. P. L. Jayaratne

## 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025: Symposium

*Prof. Cyril Ponnampерuma Memorial Oration: "Commemorating 100 Years of Quantum Mechanics"*

"Commemorating 100 years of quantum mechanics"  
- Prof. Kirthi Tennakone  
"Amazing and puzzling nature of the quantum world"  
- Prof. Asiri Nanayakkara  
"Quantum dots: from quantum theory to biomedical breakthroughs" - Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake



## 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025: Special Lecture

*"Advanced Technology for Modern World"*

Speakers - Mr. Vincent Lim, Channel Partner Manager - Spectroscopy (Agilent Technologies, Singapore) and Mr. Vinayak Azhakaprakalam, Application Engineer - Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (Agilent Technologies, India)

## 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025: Workshop

*Environmental Education and Awareness Program - Weerakatiya Rajapaksha Central collage at NIFS Sam Popham's Arboretum*

Speaker - Dr. Himesh Jayasinghe

