



# Learner

Issue 13 : 2023

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**Professor Jon Reast**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Northumbria University



**Conrad Dias**  
Chairman, LOLC Finance PLC



**Adrian Chadwick OBE**  
Regional Director, British Council, South Asia



**Talent Show 2022**





# Learner

ISSUE 13

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BMS SriLanka

# EDITORIAL

## Trusted Partner in the changing world

The changing world is a universal topic of interest with particular resonance to higher education. The world of work has also changed, and it has created new demands of knowledge and skills from the graduates. BMS has undertaken true reforms in both content and delivery of education to meet those needs.

Our commitment to transform the students within an inclusive academic culture, has helped them become creative thinkers and productive researchers around the world. BMS understands the diverse needs, expectations, and ambitions of our students in a changing environment ensuring a mutually supportive professional and learning community.

The constant change and the consequential crisis are composed of two interrelated and interdependent characters the first offering an alert about uncertainty, while the other, new opportunities. Unless people are ready to accept change, they cannot harness opportunities. Sri Lanka, now undergoing the most challenging economic, political, and social crisis in its history, is a fertile ground for opportunities as well. It is up to the citizens, especially the country's youth, to be winners by identifying those opportunities and harnessing them. BMS, through its innovative educational and professional practices, will help its main stakeholder, namely, the students, to be winners in this enterprise. It firmly believes that a person or an organisation is assessed not by the success in prosperous times but in adverse times. Long-practiced team culture, ownership, and the family atmosphere of BMS are all geared toward this end.

As an institution, we were honoured by three unique Awards of Recognition in 2022. With all these accomplishments, BMS remains as a trusted partner in higher education for our stakeholders-students, parents, partner universities and the community.

Nizam Razzaq

Design & Concept: **BMS Digital Studio**



Sanjaya  
Senaratne



Nirmani  
Wickramanayake



Roshan  
Samarasekara



Malinda  
Amarasinghe



Hasni  
Nihar



**This strategy, known as 'cross-fertilisation of learning', contributes to widening the learning horizons of students, a must in the journey of BMS toward creating a critical mass of global citizens.**

**Dr W A Wijewardena**  
President, BMS

# Global citizens, not digital natives

**Dr W A Wijewardena - President, BMS**

The motto of BMS is to make learning happen. It facilitates students to learn by themselves instead of seeking to power their brains through knowledge implanted from outside. Behind this motto, there is an unannounced teaching mission which BMS has embarked on. That is to create global citizens and not mere digital natives.

The main characteristic of a digital native is that he or she is well versed in modern ICT, capable of handling any App on his or her own and produce results within his or her knowledge. However, their knowledge is limited to what is within the borders of the island.

On the contrary, global citizens have a wide world outlook, consider themselves as members of a wider global community and therefore, could work with people of diverse beliefs, faiths, and ethnicities within as well as outside Sri Lanka. Unlike digital natives, they are better team-players because they can work with others amicably understanding and respecting each other. They are well poised to put across a dissenting view without running into hostilities. As a result, they can serve any employer whether they are domiciled within Sri Lanka or outside.

In recognition of this role played by BMS throughout its functioning as a higher learning institution for over 22 years, at the South Asian Partnership Summit & Business Excellence Award 2022 held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in September 2022, BMS was honoured with Gold as the best educational institute in South Asia with academic and industry interface. This is the second occasion BMS was recognised in South Asia. In 2021, the same Partnership showered it with another gold as education institute in management in South Asia. On both occasions, BMS was adjudged the best in South Asia in the relevant category by an independent panel of judges drawn from all the 8 South Asian countries. We have, therefore, been humbled by these two recognitions, made toward BMS one after the other.

The gold which BMS received from South Asian Partnership Summit 2022 refers to its unparalleled work in establishing a sound and sustainable interface with academic world and industry giants. In the case of the academic interface, almost all state universities in and around Colombo have been partners of BMS, supervising the research being conducted by BMS students and teaching some of the modules prescribed for its courses.

This strategy, known as 'cross-fertilisation of learning', contributes to widening the learning horizons of students, a must in the journey of BMS toward creating a critical mass of global citizens. These global citizens are then employed in local as well as foreign industrial firms creating the other side of the interface.





## “BMS is a key global TNE partner of Northumbria University over two decades”

**Professor Jon Reast**

Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Northumbria University UK



### How has Northumbria dealt with the challenges that 2022 has brought?

The past two years have been very uncertain, with many restrictions and lockdowns that we have never before had to contend with. As a result, studying at Northumbria University has been an entirely different experience for our new and continuing students. At Northumbria, we have continued to put our students at the heart of everything we do, ensuring they have additional support in both their educational and social experiences. Our award-winning student support team has worked tirelessly to provide our students with access to all types of support ranging from mental health to finance.

In 2022, Northumbria received the exciting news that we were named University of the Year in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Awards. The THE Awards are widely recognised as the 'Oscars of higher education'. The impressive win recognises exceptional performance, as well as bold, imaginative and innovative initiatives that have advanced a Higher Education institution's reputation during the academic year 2020/21. It marks Northumbria's remarkable transformation to become the UK's first research-intensive modern university. The strategy, which began in 2008, embedded quality research at the centre of everything that the University does, alongside a clear social mobility mission, and alignment to business and the demands of the regional and local economy. This is something that we are incredibly proud of, and it comes down to both the unwavering efforts of our staff who has continued to deliver throughout an unprecedented, and very difficult two years.

### Research in Higher Education is becoming increasingly important, what are your views on the need for research in HE?

Northumbria has always placed strong emphasis on creating and applying knowledge for the benefit of individuals, communities, and economy. Through ground-breaking research, teaching, and innovation we pledge to transform lives and make a powerful contribution to social cultural and economic development. Thanks to our notable research-active staff base, results from the UK Government's Research Excellence Framework (REF2021) audit show Northumbria University with the biggest rise in research power ranking of any UK university for the second time. Our research power ranking rose to 23<sup>rd</sup> in the UK, with 80% of our research classed as world-leading (REF 2021). Through this research, our students are constantly learning about our ever-changing world, and as a result are able to apply their knowledge to their studies and beyond.

### In your experience, how do you build and manage successful university partnerships in TNE?

Transnational Education Partnerships are vital to the success of Northumbria. We are lucky to work so closely with a fantastic range of high quality international partners, including BMS in Sri Lanka. BMS is one of our key global TNE partners, having worked with them over the past two decades and producing a high standard of programmes and students with quality academic excellence. Putting our students at the heart of what we do is

of utmost importance, ensuring that our students always feel valued and part of the Northumbria network wherever it is they are studying. In parallel with those at our Newcastle, London and Amsterdam campuses or BMS in Sri Lanka, we deliver best student experiences all around the world. We ensure that programmes taught at our partner institutions are up to the minute, and that the content taught fits within the market context. We want to support students in their studies to the very best of their ability, paving the way for bright future careers and encouraging them to take on the challenges of tomorrow.

### How do you think being a Research Professor has supported you in becoming the Pro Vice-Chancellor at Northumbria?

Given that Northumbria University is unique in being a research-intensive modern university which cares deeply not only about research but also teaching, having prior experience as a research professor was always going to have been a prerequisite for the job. Having also been an academic Head of Department and Executive Dean for a Business and Law Faculty also mean that I have a cast-iron resolve around providing high quality research-informed teaching and protecting the student experience.

Now entering my eighth year with Northumbria University, I am incredibly proud to be working for a trailblazing university, one which is research intensive and yet not elitist in the way it operates. For all the reasons laid out above, Northumbria University is very proud to have been short-listed for Times Higher Education 'UK University of the Year', for the second time in the last seven years.





**Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Honourable Dinesh Gunawardena and Professor Jon Reast, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Northumbria University at Prime Minister's Office in Colombo.**

## Research Partnership with State Universities and Non-State Degree Awarding Institutions

Prime Minister, Dinesh Gunawardena and Northumbria University Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jon Reast held constructive discussions to explore future research partnerships for state and non-state higher education institutions in Sri Lanka. Prime Minister indicated that the international research partnerships offer breadth of knowledge and experience along with highly skilled research expertise. Our universities and higher educational institutions shall look for new knowledge, and innovations which can be used to solve problems and improve practices which can contribute to industry and community.

Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021) showed Northumbria University with the biggest rise in research power ranking of any UK university.

Northumbria has recorded exceptional results, with growing strength across all subjects. It is ranked in the top 10 for research power in seven of the thirteen areas in which it entered the REF, and in the top 26 in all areas. In Geography, Northumbria's research power is second only to Oxford, while in Sport and Exercise Sciences its research is rated seventh for impact.

**Discussions also focused on the global demand for nurses, and it is estimated shortages up to 13 million nurses around the world.**

Allied health are joined first for research environment, and History top 10 for research output quality.

Discussions focused on the global demand for nurses, and it is estimated shortages up to 13 million nurses around the world. Even before the pandemic, the global shortage of nurses was estimated at 5.9 million. With the COVID-19 driven increase in demand for nurses, the issue of nurse shortages has become even more urgent. Prime Minister suggested Northumbria University to develop nurses in Sri Lanka with global competencies which will bring valuable foreign currency for the country. Medical Biotechnology and Biomedical Engineering are the new fields in which our education institutions may specialise in the future. Medical Biotechnology as a branch of medicine will be an attractive job-oriented field for Sri Lankan students and graduates.





## BMS Board of Governors

L to R: (front) Professor Jennifer Perera, Dr W A Wijewardena, President, Professor Sriyani Peiris, Professor Ravindra Fernando, Mr J P R Karunaratne, Dr Ananda Handunge & Mr Rusiripala Tennakoon.

## BioBusiness Initiatives to Fuel the National Economy Governors Encourage Transferable Skills for Graduates

BMS Board of Governors is an advisory body at the apex of the organisational structure providing guidance and advice to the institution on its higher education initiatives. BioBusiness has been identified as the fastest growing knowledge-based sectors which can help Sri Lanka achieve a higher economic growth. Educators are preparing students for careers that may not yet exist in the country, but it is clear that tomorrow's professions will require a wide range of new skills mixing different sectors.

BioBusiness promotes knowledge and skills in relation to biology, business and services among graduates and it includes Biopharma (drugs and vaccines), Bioindustrial (biofuels and enzymes), Bioagri (hybrid crops and bio fertilisers), and Bioinformatics (data analytics and software).

Sri Lanka's neighbour, India, has achieved economic success with the adoption and development of biotechnology which is a powerful enabling of technology that can revolutionise agriculture, healthcare, industrial processing and environmental sustainability.

**The strategic plan of BMS focuses on introducing BioBusiness with industry interface as a module within the degree programmes.**

India is currently ranked amongst the top 12 biotechnology destinations in the world and is a global leader in the production of drugs and vaccines.

The strategic plan of BMS focuses on introducing BioBusiness with industry interface as a module within the degree programmes to develop the students as graduates with transferable skills. Entrepreneurship based on innovation shall become the focus of applied learning and concentrated academic research. The governors recommended specific educational programmes to create technical competence to cater to the demands of the international manufacturing firms to invest locally.

USAID has entered collaboration with Sri Lanka Institute of Biotechnology to establish Sri Lanka's first biotechnology innovation park in Pitipana, Homagama. This provides a great opportunity to make a global impact in biotechnology and the BioBusiness studies will lay the foundation to create work-ready graduates from BMS.



# “Digital Transformation: People more than Technology”

**Conrad Dias**  
Chairman - LOLC Finance



Science fiction is becoming science fact and world's greatest problems are the opportunities that can be explored and solved with technology, innovations, and most importantly human leadership. Digital transformation has become imperative and no longer an option for organisations.

We are living in the most challenging times in human history. 2 years ago, the entire world and every one of us faced the pandemic that challenged every human being. As we speak, our economy is facing challenges with inflation and some of the world economies too are facing challenges with inflation and recession. Geopolitical issues are aggravated by the Russian/Ukraine war and increasing further pressure on many global economies.

If you look at the last 30-50 years, the world has become a better place and let me share some insights with the world of data. Infant mortality has halved during the last 30 years to 5 million, population in extreme poverty has reduced drastically in some parts to zero, life expectancy has increased

over the years exponentially, and literacy rates have increased to over 70%. We have similar trends even when we analyse the data for Sri Lankan context.

Digital transformation is a journey not an end destination. Hence, it is important to know the organisation's digital ambition before embarking on the journey. Digital ambition falls into three categories, that is Digital Technology Enablement, Digital Business Optimisation and Digital Transformation. Organisations may choose one or more at a time based on their capabilities and stage the digital maturity of the organisation, industry, and customer segment.

Leaders must invite managers to put their mind to use technology to create new business models, international markets and satisfying customers by delivering value.

You need smart people to make the digital strategy to be successful without falling into the costly trap of assumption on innovation which may not take birth as the way it has been imagined.

Digital transformation incorporates the word 'Transformation' and therefore it is not just about embracing technology alone. Technology shall be used to transform business processes, models, and organisational culture.

It is very much essential that the young learners must develop the transferable skills to apply the learning within the organisation which is required for the path of transformation. Young people consume negative news faster believing it as gospel truth. Modern learning demands discussion, debate, and dialogue in arriving at conclusions and develop the culture to respect contrary view and different opinions without rejecting them as it is against your personal interest.

Digital impact on the learning of young people may indicate advantages of information in your fingertips. Closed book examinations may be an irrelevant assessment method since the memorising part is outdated due to the availability of theories and concepts for reading for example in Google instantly.



Master Talk 2022: Meeting BMS students

**BMS**  
MasterTalk

Digital transformation incorporates the word 'Transformation' and therefore, it is not just about embracing technology alone.

**BTEC** | **20**  
**AWARDS** | **22**

**Bronze**  
AWARD WINNER

This is to certify that

**Business Management School**

has received a Bronze award for

**BTEC International Institution of  
the Year 2022**

to recognise their dedication and commitment  
in providing BTEC qualifications.



**Freya Thomas Monk**

SVP Vocational Qualifications and Training  
Pearson





## BMS, Sri Lanka Wins the Pearson BTEC International Institution of the Year!



Ms Premila Paulraj, Regional Director, Pearson-South Asia, hands over the BTEC Award (Bronze) for International Institution 2022, to Dr W A Wijewardena, BMS President in the presence of Dr Abdul Cader, Head of Academic Affairs, BMS and Mr Suriya Bibile, Country Head, Pearson.

BTEC Awards is an annual event that recognises and celebrates all the hard work and dedication of BTEC learners, educators and providers from all around the globe. Every year, over one million learners from 50 countries choose a BTEC programme, because they are high quality, hands-on qualifications grounded in the real world of work.

Pearson BTEC Higher National Diploma qualifications are equivalent to the first two years of a Bachelor's Degree.

**Every year, over one million learners from 50 countries choose a BTEC Qualifications**

BTEC Higher National qualifications are recognised by many international universities with advanced entry to the third year of the degree. BTEC HND is preferred by the industry, so they have been designed to be taken as stand-alone qualifications before entering the real world of work, or to give you a practical grounding towards a degree at university.

Pearson's BTEC qualifications are accepted by a range of Ministries of Education and other recognition bodies around the world. A student may achieve exemption from professional qualifications, or membership of selected professional organisations to help students on their journey to professional recognition of their qualifications.

Pearson UK Level 5

# BTEC HND

*leading to Final Year Degree*

**Specialist Pathways**

- Management ● Marketing
- Accounting & Finance
- HRM ● Entrepreneurship
- Supply Chain Management
- Business with Law

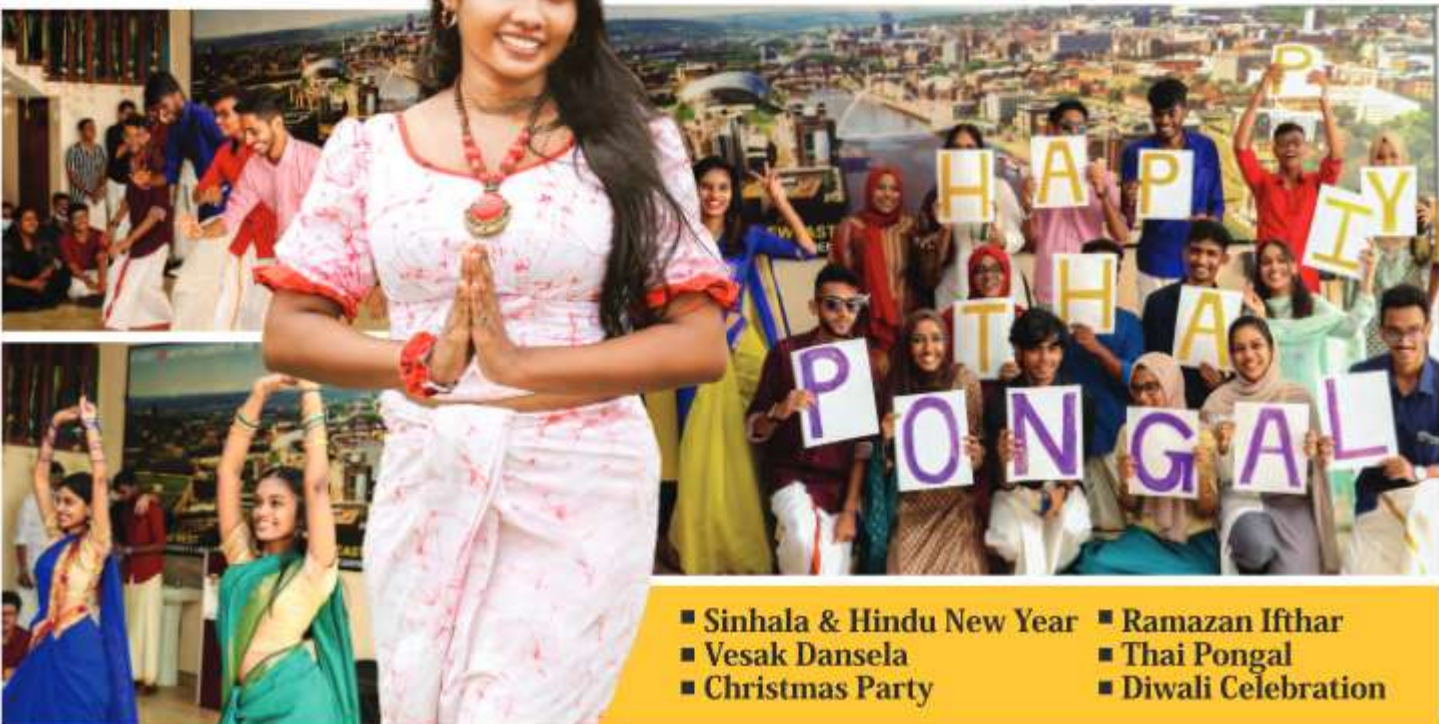




Sinhala & Tamil New Year 2022



Vesak Dansela



- Sinhala & Hindu New Year
- Vesak Dansela
- Christmas Party
- Ramazan Ifthar
- Thai Pongal
- Diwali Celebration



# Cultural Events 2022



Thai Pongal 2022



Christmas Party



Iftar Celebration



Iftar Celebration



Diwali Celebration



**BMS**  
make learning happen

**Student**  
*Life*





# Best Website Award 2022

University & Education Institute (Sri Lanka)



## BMS wins the Gold Award for the University and Education Institute website: BestWeb.lk

LK Domain Registry in Sri Lanka conducts BestWeb.lk competition annually and this is the twelfth time it was conducted. BestWeb.lk is a web-based competition providing an exclusive opportunity to promote and popularise Sri Lankan websites and showcase Sri Lankan abilities online.

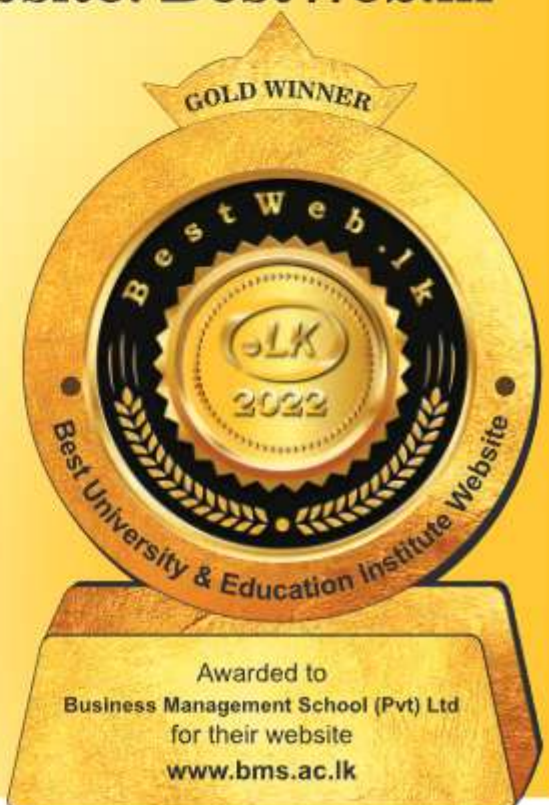
The participants of the competition are judged on both creativity and technical achievement. The Panel of Judges comprising of industry experts with broad web expertise and ability to spot talent are responsible for judging the websites. The public also contributes by voting for their favourite site. The criteria include searching facility, privacy policy, cookies policy, simple URL, links to home page and e-commerce sites should enable https for eligibility.

### Evaluation Criteria

Technical	✓
Design	✓
Content	✓
Interaction	✓
Multilingual	✓
Community Purpose	✓
Mobile Optimised	✓

### Content Criteria

Volume	✓
Relevance	✓
Creativity	✓
Accuracy	✓
Richness	✓





## “British Council builds connections, understanding and trust between UK and South Asia,,

**Adrian Chadwick OBE**  
Regional Director South Asia, British Council



### Regional Going Global Conference 2022

Going Global Asia Pacific is the first regional edition of British Council's flagship Higher Education global conference. Aimed at leaders in education with a focus on the Asia Pacific region, the conference will take place in Singapore in November-December.

The theme of this conference is 'How to pursue equity in an inequitable world?' Three sub-themes will be explored to assess the extent to which senior leaders can drive equity and what they can do differently to achieve better outcomes especially through international education activity.

The sub themes include (1) Shaping a more equitable future for mobility of students and researchers, (2) Inspiring a new model of international education partnership and (3) How to lead universities and colleges to best serve their communities. Going Global Conference provides an excellent opportunity for around 200 leaders of universities and colleges to meet in person to have an open dialogue to take higher education into the new era of constant changes in the world.

### Exchange of Learning and Formation of Partnerships in International Education

As the UK organisation for cultural engagement and educational opportunities, we build connections, understanding and trust between the UK and South Asia for greater socio-economic impact through our work in English, Education and Arts. Our aim is to be a platform for the UK and South Asia, to build long-term partnerships that enable high quality education for improved learner outcomes and

greater socio-economic impact. Based on our long history of working in South Asia, we aim to create an environment in which collaboration can flourish. The partnerships that we develop at government and institutional level focus on supporting national system reform agendas to develop more effective, inclusive education systems through strong research and innovation, internationalisation and the sharing of global practise and new ideas.

**British Council, Sri Lanka has been working with BMS since its inception, and we look forward to continuing to work together to build connections and trust between Sri Lanka and the UK.**

In July 2021, a cluster of six Sri Lankan schools from the Central Province were chosen for the Commonwealth Connections programme. This was initiated with the goal of creating meaningful sports, arts, citizenship, and cultural connections between young people based on shared Commonwealth values.

Sri Lanka has a very strong Trans National Education (TNE) presence in the South Asia region, especially delivering UK qualifications. There are more than 60 TNE HE institutions in Sri Lanka which provide UK HE qualifications. We have facilitated three successful TNE partnerships between the UK and Sri Lankan TNEs since January 2022. I would like to acknowledge BMS for its commitment to building innovative international links between Sri Lanka and UK universities over two decades. The British Council in Sri Lanka has been pleased to work with BMS since its inception, and we look forward to continuing to work together to build connections and trust between Sri Lanka and the UK.

### Opportunities for Researchers and Academics

Over 1300 researchers from 70 Pakistan Universities will benefit from the Build Research Capacity project with Coventry University and the UK's Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) which is helping to establish mechanisms for Quality assurance in Pakistan's HE sector.

The British Council Bangladesh signed an MoU in December 2021 with the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh to improve quality of Higher Education, reform the sector and highlight the benefits of international academic and research partnerships between Bangladesh and the UK.

In Nepal, we are supporting the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MOEST) to develop a 10-year TVET Strategic Reform Plan, and capacity building in different aspects of TVET quality and private sector engagement in TVET.

### Gender Equality for Education in the Region

Our approach to addressing girls' education recognises that a holistic, joined-up and co-ordinated approach is required.

Through our English and Digital for Girls' Education (EDGE) programme, we work with adolescent girls in non-formal education settings to support their English language proficiency, digital skills and awareness of social issues. We also work with community and youth forums to tackle social norms and barriers to girls' education. For example, in Pakistan we have supported the enrolment and retention of 485,000 girls between the ages of 6-11 years in Government primary schools since 2014 (under the Take a Child to School programme).



# Tech Addiction

## Is it Rewiring the Brain?

Technological web of mobile phones, computers, the Internet, and video games may rewire the brain to function differently. Addictions permanently change the brain through a process called neuroplasticity. How concerned should people be about the psychological effects of screen time? Balancing technology use with other aspects of daily life seems reasonable, but there are numerous conflicting advice about where that balance should be.

Some strongly argue that tech addiction is just a moral panic, giving voice to scary claims based on weak data. They claim, 'Addiction is a pathology, and it is not simply liking something a lot.' Tech gadgets play healthy roles in our lives, and it has the power to shape our behaviour. We shall enjoy the benefits of technology, avoiding the darker side of them or claiming them as addiction.

### Changes in the Brain

Alerts, rings, and notifications can shift our focus in a way that can lead to long-lasting difficulties in paying attention. Difficulties in paying attention can lead to poorer performance on academic, personal, and professional tasks. Researchers found that frequent media multitasking may contribute to the diminished grey matter in the anterior cingulate cortex, an area of the brain where attentional control resides (Loh and Kanai, 2014).

### Pleasure Centre

Dopamine is the neurotransmitter released in response to pleasure or excitement. When we take in near-constant technological inputs of text messages, YouTube videos, pictures, or video games, our brain's pleasure centres (ventral tegmental area, nucleus accumbens, and basal ganglia)

can become hype stimulated by dopamine. This overstimulation can make our brain's pleasure centres less responsive to other enjoyable experiences, such as eating a meal, reading a book, having a conversation, or holding hands.

### Hinder Memories

Research shows we are remembering less information because we know we can search it on Google or other digital platforms. In one study (Sparrow, Liu and Wegner, 2011), participants were asked to type 40 trivia facts. Half of the participants were told the computer would save their work, while the other half were told the computer would erase what they had typed. Next, all participants were asked to write down as many of the 40 trivia facts they could recall from memory.

The group who had been told the computer would erase their document performed much better on the task than the group who had been told the computer would save what they had typed. This phenomenon of decreased long-term and working memory is often called the "Google Effect."

### Reduce Sleep

Many people go to bed at night with the phone in hand, planning to make one final check of email or a social media feed. Yet, it can be all too easy to just keep clicking, and before you know it, you have wandered down several rabbit trails and sacrificed a few hours of sleep. Even after you put down your phone, the blue light your eyes absorbed from your screen may disrupt your natural sleep process, stealing yet more sleep time. Your sleep may be impaired because you cannot stop thinking about your friend's sad social media post or the alarming national or world story you just read.

When technology is a blessing and not a curse



A person had a serious accident, and luckily he was wearing a smart watch, which measures vital body functions. When the pulse started to fall after accident, the watch sent a message to rescue its owner with its location on the map and sent an alert message to the son: "Your father had an accident and I called the ambulance and you because you are on his emergency list."

When the son came he saw that the ambulance had taken his father to the recovery room after the call of the clock and he was rescued.

However, reduced sleep increases the risk of psychiatric disorders including anxiety and depression - and is associated with lower overall brain activity, which can impact productivity, physical safety, and weight management.

### Living without Technology

Technology has made our life so easy and has given us many facilities, which we could never have imagined before. At the same time, technology has not only improved the standard of living of human beings but has brought revolutionary changes in the field of development of the country and the world. For example, DNA testing online, monitoring systems, scanning equipment that allows patients to spend a shorter time in recovery, testing procedures to help prevent, diagnose and cure diseases.

For instance, benefits of DNA testing include screening for genetic markers of future illness like cancer and Alzheimer's Disease. Human dependency on technology is inevitable and we shall accept that we cannot imagine a life without technology. It is the balance that is required to rule the addiction or not.



# Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand Top 100 universities in the world

## Victoria University and BMS Partnership



Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and BMS, Sri Lanka formed an innovative partnership to develop Degree Pathways for local students to study in New Zealand. The partnership was inaugurated at Hilton Colombo in the presence of His Excellency Michael Appleton, New Zealand Commissioner to Sri Lanka.

**L to R: Professor Gamini Samaranayake, Vice-President, BMS, Careem, University Representative, Dr Mathi Kandaiyah, Dean BMS School of Science, His Excellency Michael Appleton.**



Justice A H M D Nawaz, Judge of the Supreme Court, His Excellency Michael Appleton, New Zealand High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Dr W A Wijewardena, BMS President, Justice S Thurairaja, Judge of the Supreme Court and Mr Andrew Traveller, New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.



# BMS Graduation Ceremony









# *BMS Graduation Ceremony*







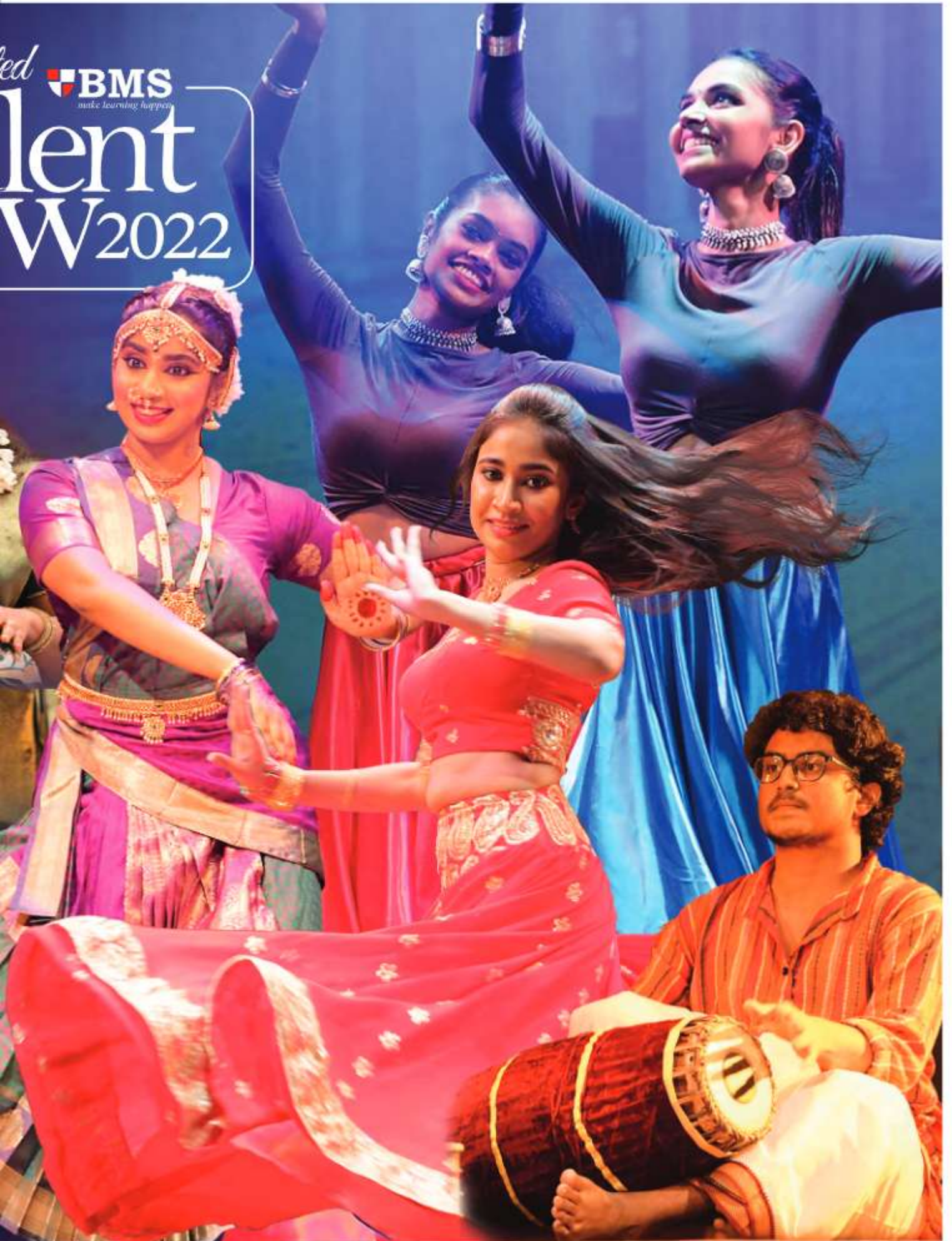




*Enchant*  
**Ta**  
**Sho**



ed  
**BMS**  
*make learning happen*  
**alent**  
**W2022**





# BMS Higher National Diploma Award Ceremony 2022





# “Pearson expects over a billion more learners through formal education by 2030”

**Premila Paulraj**

Director - Employability and Qualifications, Pearson South Asia



## Can you introduce Pearson as a learning company?

Pearson is the world's learning company that utilises its rich content library and direct-to-consumer business model to offer generations of students the courses, curriculums, and tools to achieve their potential through learning. Founded in 1844, the business has evolved significantly since its roots as a building and engineering company, and we've been creating the resources people need to learn and grow for many years. Today, millions of people around the world rely on Pearson for earning throughout their lives and our team of over 20,000 people work tirelessly to refine our digital platforms, key products, and services, making them accessible to anyone, anywhere.

We work with globally recognised educational institutions, employers, and governments and our expertise crosses a broad range of subject matters and age groups. We help tens of millions of people access content, follow courses, sit assessments, and gain qualifications in almost 200 countries. Sri Lanka is one of the active and main markets in the Asia Pacific Region and Pearson offers Ordinary Level, Advance Level and BTEC Qualifications for thousands of young and matured learners.

## Your view on 'online' versus 'traditional classroom' learning?

Online learning has certainly broken the global boundaries and provided opportunities for resources and access for learning. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced learners across industries to take to online learning and it has made home as a workplace creating a new culture of learning from home.

Pearson expects over a billion more learners through formal education by 2030 - a growing a global middle class and longer careers are driving lifelong and non-academic learning.

Traditional classroom learning enhances interaction among students and teachers. It provides conducive physical environment to learn from fellow students, and enable discussion while encouraging high level of teamwork.

physical libraries with digital library resources. In Sri Lanka, many state and non-state higher education institution have successfully utilized the e-library facilities from Pearson. HN online provides online teaching, and it covers 50% of the guided learning hours of the BTEC Higher National Programmes. It allows centers and tutors to mix the delivery to create a blended module for young learners to maintain a balance between traditional and online teaching.

**BMS is a BTEC Center in Sri Lanka demonstrating excellence of winning BTEC AWARD for International Institute of the Year 2022 (BRONZE)**

Given the structured nature of traditional classrooms, young students learn discipline, timeliness and adhering to schedules which will feature prominently in their adult lives. It enables them to monitor themselves and comply with a set of rules that intend to make them better individuals. Going forward, we can expect that online learning will be the reality in the world and recommend the blended approach of mixing online and traditional features for young learners.

## How does Pearson resources help remote learning?

Pearson has been the first to design online resources that include interactive learning tools, an online learning platform, and an e-library. Online library facility of Pearson published books are available in the e-library on an Annual Subscription basis. Increasingly, universities and higher educational institutions are replacing

## Your comments on BMS winning BTEC Award 2022

You can just imagine that BTEC Award 2022 was opened to hundreds of centers around the world. BMS has competed with all BTEC international centers in different countries to win the prestigious International Institution of the Year 2022 - Bronze Award. It is a great achievement for BMS demonstrating international standards of quality in teaching, assessing, providing experiential learning and industry interface. Pearson external verifiers have constantly recorded commendation for BMS for their academic and professional excellence. This is the first time a BTEC Center in Sri Lanka secured the BTEC Award. BMS is the BTEC Center in Sri Lanka and in the region demonstrating excellence in every aspect. I congratulate BMS and their family of staff members, students and everyone for their hard work, dedication, and commitment in delivering Pearson qualifications.





# South Asian Business Excellence Awards 2022

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022  
Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, Bangladesh

*Best Educational Institute with  
Best Academic & Industry Interface Award*

*Presented to*

**Business Management School, Sri Lanka**





## BMS crowned as the Best Education Institute with Best Academic & Industry Interface Award 2022!

The South Asian Business Excellence Awards were introduced to acknowledge and reward the exceptional work and the results gained by the trailblazers of the corporate domain, in the face of an ever-increasing competitive market in the South Asian Region. The Awards recognise the individual and organisations' achievements of those who create and maintain outstanding results and the award recipients are

selected through the selection process set by the international Jury. South Asian Business Excellence Awards are honouring organisations of all types and sizes, and the people behind their success, from private to public, for profit to nonprofit. South Asia Business has proved its mettle in so many ways, through adaptation, innovation, and perspiration. We have seen organisations reach new markets, revolutionise their business practices, and find commercial

success in challenging times. Faced with tremendous adversity, business leaders in the South Asian region have shown amazing resilience and ingenuity and achieved astonishing turn around results during the pandemic and SAPSAA 2022 will celebrate the heroic people in business, the people who have pivoted, the people who have fought and survived and those who have coped with unprecedented change and growth.

### South Asian Business Excellence Award 2021

## BMS won the Best Education Institute in Management Award



*Dr W A Wijewardena, President of BMS receives the Best Education Institute in Management Award 2021 (South Asian Business Excellence Awards) from Honourable Mathripala Sirisena, former President of Sri Lanka at the South Asian Partnership Summit 2021 held in Colombo.*



# BMS Graduation Ceremony



Congrats!





# Graduate Diploma in Management



pathway  
to  
Masters  
Degree

## Graduate Diploma in Management





This is to certify that the

Higher Diploma in Biotechnology at

**Business Management School,  
Sri Lanka**

has been awarded Accreditation by the Royal Society  
of Biology for 5 years from

**October 2021**



**Professor Dame Julia M Goodfellow FRSB**  
President  
Royal Society of Biology



**Dr Mark Downs CSci FRSB**  
Chief Executive  
Royal Society of Biology



Incorporated by Royal Charter  
Registered Charity No: 277981



# RSB Accreditation for Higher Diploma



Royal Society of Biology is a single unified voice for biology: advising government and influencing policy; advancing education and professional development; supporting the members, and engaging and encouraging public interest in the life sciences. The Society represents a diverse membership of individuals and learned societies.

The Foundation Degree (Higher Diploma) Accreditation follows an independent and rigorous assessment of the

programmes which contain a solid academic foundation in biological knowledge and key skills and prepare graduates to address the needs of employers. To achieve accreditation, higher education institutes will need to provide evidence that their programmes meet the six overarching learning outcomes set by the RSB.

The Foundation Degree (Higher Diploma) Accreditation aims to: foster the development of key learning outcomes

and recognise the excellence that exists in giving graduates the skills, knowledge and professional development experiences that enable successful progression to employment and/or further qualifications in the biosciences.

RSB professionally recognises those who work in the life sciences at a high level with Chartered Status such as Chartered Scientist (CSci).

## “ Science with Arctic attitude

Excited to be a student of a top global university in Finland for Masters Degree -MSc Biotechnology. It was possible from my bachelor's at BMS and thank you all at BMS for helping me to reach Science with Arctic attitude.

Laknee De Silva

BSc (Hons), UK / MSc (Finland) Reading



Graduate Testimonial



# BMS Staff Awards Ceremony 2022



*BMS staff Award Ceremony was organised on 19 December 2022. The Award Ceremony was yet another reward for all the hard work rendered by the entire staff at BMS throughout the year.*



The Team BMS





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“BMS made it possible for my Masters and graduate route in the UK with my family”

*Velantina Vinodhini Victor, MSc Business Analytics*

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# INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE



This is to certify that  
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has been awarded  
**Institute of Biomedical Science Approval**  
for the  
**Higher Diploma in Biomedical Science**

Intakes 2021 to 2025 inclusive

*Alan Williams* PRESIDENT

*Jill Anthony* CHIEF EXECUTIVE





# IBMS Recognition for Higher Diploma



With over 21,000 members in 74 countries, Institute of Biomedical Science, UK (IBMS) is the Professional Body for biomedical scientists and support staff - advancing knowledge and setting standards in biomedical science. For over 100 years IBMS has been dedicated to the promotion, development and delivery of excellence in biomedical science within all aspects of healthcare, and to providing the highest standards of service to patients and the public. IBMS membership provides a range of benefits to develop

scientists' knowledge and careers and provide tailored professional support and recognition. IBMS approval of Higher Diploma in Biomedical Science is an initial process of peer review and quality enhancement that ensures education and training standards, that are suitable to progress towards the degree in the biomedical science sector under the protected title of Biomedical Scientist. A biomedical scientist is a scientist trained in biology, particularly in the context of medical laboratory sciences.

## Biomedical Scientist

A biomedical scientist is a professional who is trained in biology, especially in the context of medicine. They discover new ways to find cures, treat or prevent diseases by developing advanced preventive measures, diagnostic tools or new therapeutic strategies.

## “ My learning journey to USA

BMS created a highly dynamic environment that provided us with a strong academic background. It was a fun and exciting experience.

BMS gave me immense support and guidance throughout my learning journey. Currently, I am pursuing my PhD in Biomedical Sciences specialising in Cancer Biology at Creighton University School of Medicine, USA.

**Samadhi Kulasooriya**  
Creighton University, USA



Graduate Testimonial



# BMS and ITI Partnership for Student Internship



**Dr W A Wijewardena, BMS President and Dr Radhika Samarasekera, Director General of ITI exchange the Memorandum of Understanding at the BMS Award Ceremony in the presence of Senior Professor, Pathmalal Manage, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Chief Guest and Dr Mathi Kandiah, Dean, BMS School of Science and Dr Maheshi Athapaththu, Research Scientist of ITI.**

The Industrial Technology Institute is owned by the Government of Sri Lanka and functions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industries. A Statutory Board incorporated on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1998, under the Science and Technology Development Act No.11 of 1994, the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) is the successor to the Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research (CISIR). ITI is a multi-disciplinary research institute

with an objective to elevate the level of technology in Sri Lanka for rapid industrialisation. BMS and Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) formed a collaborative partnership for the fifth continuous year in providing research-based laboratory training and internship for BMS students of Biotechnology. The laboratory training in the field of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology consists of the areas of Laboratory Safety, Sterilisation Techniques, Preparation

and Handling of Molecular Biology Reagents, Extraction of DNA, Quantification of DNA, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Agarose Gel Electrophoresis (AGE), Basics of Microbiology, Scientific Literature Search, Report Writing, Seminar and Presentation. Both institutions are committed to exploring scientific research programme developments to provide experiential learning and hands-on experience to students.

## “ Internal British Degree @ BMS

I am pleased to pursue doctoral studies in Forensic Science at Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK. BMS facilitated the Bachelor's which is an internal degree from Northumbria. This means that your degree will be exactly the same whether you complete at BMS, Sri Lanka or Northumbria, UK.

**Shara Ahamed**  
Northumbria University, UK





# “Peradeniya Scientists Produce Nano Masks”

Professor M D Lamawansa  
Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya



## Role of the educated in society's progress

Humanity's growth and progress can be directly linked to the people who went to school and moved the society forward. To solve the major problems and challenges society faces, we need ambitious, creative, and intelligent people like you who are ready to change the world with their knowledge. Therefore, taking education seriously, which you have done, is not only a personal decision but also a socially responsible step in your life.

You may doubt the unique role you can play in society's progress. You might think, "What can I do?." Please note that every individual has the power to change the world, and the only dilemma is how. For that to happen, we need quality education, hard work, and creativity, and the rest is assured. I am sure the Business Management School and Northumbria University have done the best for you, dear graduands.

## Country's setbacks and future prospects

Your ability to get past problems is the key to your success. You may need the right mindset and much practice to do this. How you overcome obstacles is more important today than at any other time in our country's history. You might think that the future is bleak for you and your country.

Please remember that this country has survived in its known history, which goes back to the time of *Balangoda Manawayaya*, about 125,000 BCE, despite facing much stronger adversaries. Between 700 and 900 BCE, large city settlements were lost, but the country not only kept going but also got better.

Despite the country's past and current setbacks, all children are guaranteed a free school education. I'm a beneficiary of that, coming from a very humble background. All citizens get healthcare through an excellent preventive care system, again free of charge, with highly impressive health indices like infant mortality, maternal mortality, life expectancy, and literacy rates. Your parents could afford to pay for your education since there are farmers in this country who grow paddy and feed you, plantation workers who grow tea, and garment workers who stitch clothes and bring in foreign exchange. You have been educated thanks to all of them in this country. They need you now as much as you need them.

Now, more than ever, during the crisis, we know that some of the educated leave the country looking for greener pastures, but remember, even while abroad, we all owe something back to this country. The labour of those who stay back will continue to work and work hard to create a conducive environment for those who choose to return on holidays or to spend their retirement.

## Biomedical Sciences and allied fields

Some of you probably wanted to become medical doctors, like I did. However, you have chosen allied fields such as biomedical science and biotechnology. They play a pivotal role in health care and mitigating many problems, like the COVID-19 pandemic. Within one year, vaccines were made available for clinical use. What if no vaccines were developed? What would have happened to your education and your loving elders? All this came about thanks to biomedical scientists and biotechnologists like you.

***“I congratulate BMS for its achievements, its president, the staff, and the alumni who have made a name for BMS across the globe”***

*BMS Graduation 2022*

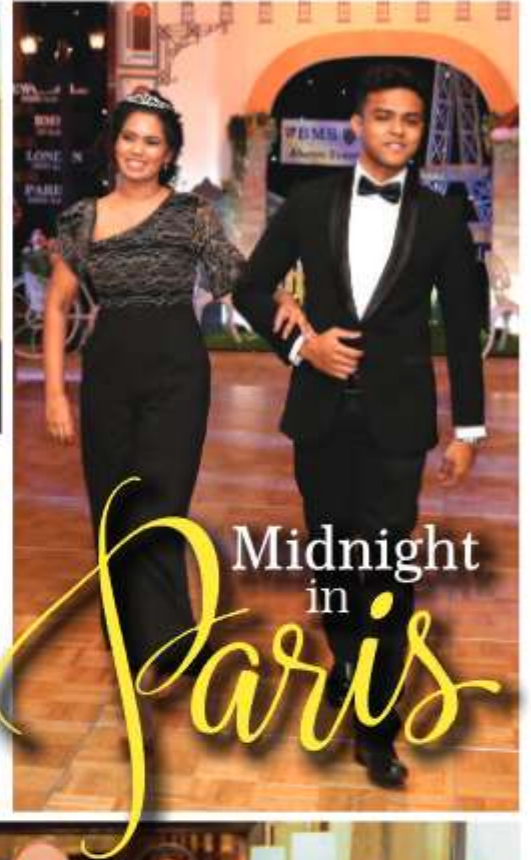
And let me explain another effort, a combined effort of biotechnologists and biomedical scientists at the University of Peradeniya. Some of you may have used or seen the mask produced by the Peradeniya scientists. It is called the "Respirone" Nano Mask. It has three layers. The front layer is hydrophobic. Water cannot stagnate on it. Therefore, fungi, bacteria, and viruses cannot stay on the surface long. The middle layer has micro holes so the viruses cannot pass through to the third inner layer. And also, the middle layer is coated with zinc using nanotechnology, and it has sharp blades that can prune the spikes of the viruses. This is the only mask that can destroy corona viruses. The inner layer is more comfortable and lets moisture escape when we breathe out. Also, if the person has the Corona virus infection, this mask stops it from spreading. Moreover, the mask is made of cotton, making it environmentally friendly. This can be washed 30 times without losing its efficacy. All these qualities have been developed and tested by biotechnologists, engineers, scientists, and biomedical scientists. Now you can get some idea of what you can do in the future.



# Alumni Event 2022



Northumbria University  
NEWCASTLE





# Sri Lanka Association of Non-State Higher Education Institutes



## Executive Committee Meeting at BMS (August 2022)

*L to R:* Prof Ruwan Abeysekara (Esoft), Rev Fr Malcolm Candappa (Aquinas), Prof Veranja Karunaratne (CINEC), Dr Lionel Pinto (IIHS), Prof Nalaka Jayakody (Saegis), Prof Colin Peiris (SLIIT), Nethushika Aponso (Coordinator), Mr Upul Dharanagama (Horizon), .

*Seated:* Mr Nizam Razzaq (BMS), Dr Athula Pitigala (SLIIT), Mr Gamindu Hemachandra (APIIT).

SLANSHEI, the Sri Lanka Association of Non-State Higher Education Institutes, is an umbrella organisation of non-state higher education institutes. Established in 2016, SLANSHEI membership now comprises 14 leading non-state higher education institutes. SLANSHEI Vision is to develop the non-state higher education sector in Sri Lanka to be one of the most robust and reputable in the region. This will be achieved by improving its capacity, quality, standards, diversity, innovativeness, and internationalisation.

A key objective of SLANSHEI is to promote the expansion and improvement of quality higher education provision in the non-state sector.

The member institutions work towards creating high quality higher education opportunities for our youth. SLANSHEI Mission is primarily to contribute to socio-economic advancement in Sri Lanka through training and development, research, and scholarship.

SLANSHEI member institutes are unique, and they offer two types of degrees. Some offer local degrees approved and accredited by the Ministry of Education (Higher Education Division). Some offer foreign degrees approved and accredited by overseas partner universities. Hence, SLANSHEI member institutes are subject to rigorous external quality assurance processes periodically.

This means the public can have confidence that the higher education programmes offered by SLANSHEI member Institutes are of high quality and standard, and the training provided would lead to gainful employment of graduates.

**SLANSHEI Mission is primarily to contribute to socio-economic advancement in Sri Lanka through training and development, research, and scholarship.**



# AOD Real-world Engagement with Renowned Brands in the Industry



## Dilmah Tea and AOD celebrate 75 years of friendship between Sri Lanka and Australia

*Mr Dilhan Fernando, CEO, Dilmah Tea, Ms Linda Speldewinde, Founder & Chairperson of AOD, His Excellency Paul Stephens, The High Commissioner of Australia to Sri Lanka & Ms Christina Stephens.*

Academy of Design (AOD) is Sri Lanka's most future-ready design dynamic. With a partnership with one of UK's finest design universities Northumbria University UK, a faculty of designers from across the globe and the kind of place that can inspire your best creativity, AOD has everything it takes to get you ready for tomorrow for the best design careers out there. With design degrees in Fashion, Interior Design, Fashion Marketing, Motion Graphics and Animation and Visual Communication Design from the Northumbria University, UK, AOD is your ticket to a great creative career.

AOD is behind some of the most powerful design initiatives in the country, such as Sri Lanka Design Festival, Island Craft Project, Urban Island and [www.fashionmarket.lk](http://www.fashionmarket.lk), creating remarkable opportunities for our students. This unique combination of education, exposure and opportunities is what makes the AOD designer, a one-of-a-kind creative professional.

The 75 long years of collaboration between the nations is only strengthened by Dilmah Tea's presence in Australia for 37 years. In celebration of this, the students of the Interior Architecture and the Graphic and Visual Communication Departments took part in this competition.

The theme of the competition was not only the long relationship between the nations, but also the migration induced relationship between Sri Lanka and Australia. With many Sri Lankans now living and becoming citizens of Australia, the connection these two countries share is undeniably strong.

This was a great opportunity for AOD students to participate in, and potentially collaborate with an iconic, world recognised brand. The competition involved 'reimagining the perfect cuppa tea' where students were tasked with envisioning their perfect cup of tea, its surroundings, taste and visual appeal.

Not only do graduates of AOD have access to these opportunities, but also the current cohort of students that are enrolled in the college as well. This competition is a testament to the bountiful prospects of enrolling in design college, that gives you access to such large brands.

***AoD - Northumbria University partnership provides a great creative career locally & globally***

A key part of AOD is that undergraduates are exposed to real world requirements with key industry players. The opportunity to gain work experience, whilst engaged in academics is instilled from the very beginning of a student's journey at AOD. The benefits of this include soft skill development, building portfolios and exposure. For example, client relationship management, feedback and iterations as well as presenting one's ideas were all soft skills honed during this competition, in collaboration with Dilmah Tea.



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# BA DESIGN DEGREE PROGRAMS

The design journey has to begin somewhere. So let it begin in a place that can reach successful new heights. With its diverse creative ecosystem and powerful partnership with Northumbria University UK, AOD has had a strong 10+ year streak in letting one's best blossom out into the world of creativity.

Live your design dream in Sri Lanka, in the UK or anywhere in the world. Complete your BA fully in Sri Lanka or UK 2+1 transfer program or international placements.

AOD offers its own career placement services through CIT Labs – Creative Talent Incubation platform.

- BA (Hons) Fashion & Textile Design
- BA (Hons) Fashion Design & Marketing
- BA (Hons) Interior Design & Architecture Design
- BA (Hons) Motion Graphics & Animation Design
- BA (Hons) Graphics & Visual Communication Design
- Design Foundation

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*Business Management School (BMS) is a Degree Awarding Institute in terms of the Universities Act, No 16 of 1978 and member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities.*