

SEMIANNUAL

FMSH

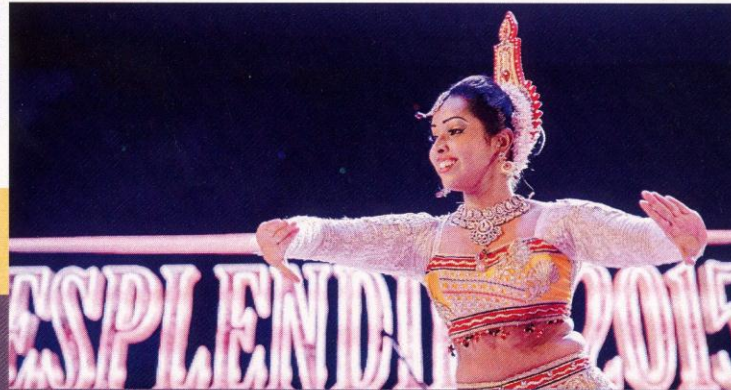


NEWS

GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

ISSUE 02

JUNE 2016



FMSH LAUNCHES ITS INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER

The inaugural 'Newsletter' of the Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities (FMSH) was launched on the 03rd of October 2015. This day also marked the event of KDU Open Day – 2015, and the launching ceremony of the 'Newsletter' was among the main highlights of the day.

The Newsletter covers a range of news items related to the academic achievements of the faculty, international and professional affiliations, social responsibilities, accreditations, new appointments, international conferences and a cross section of the events held in 2015.

During the launching ceremony of the inaugural 'Newsletter', the Dean FMSH appreciated the Vice Chancellor's encouragement, and thanked the two editors, Mr. Lahiru Chathuranga from the Department of Management and Finance and Ms. Upeksha Jayasuriya from the Department of Languages, for their dedicated effort in editing and compiling news items into an impressive document.



OPEN DAY 2015

The KDU Open Day was held on 03rd October 2015 from 0800 hrs to 1700 hrs at KDU premises for the second consecutive year. The event was organized to provide an opportunity for prospective students and their families to visit the university and learn about its degree programmes.

The Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities (FMSH) had also arranged four information stalls to provide information about degree programmes and other academic courses offered by the Department of Management and Finance, Department of Social Sciences, and Department of Languages.

In addition to providing information to the visitors, the faculty launched its inaugural 'Newsletter' as one of the main highlights among the Open Day events of the University. Moreover, the three departments of the faculty organized a game zone for the visitors, which comprised of thrilling entertainment and learning games.





CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE: PORTS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The Department of Management and Finance of the Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities organized a workshop on the theme of 'Challenges and Opportunities in International Trade: Ports and the Way Forward'. It was held on 23rd October 2015 from 0830 hrs to 1630 hrs at the auditorium of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The Objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- (i) Imparting professional knowledge on the field of International Trade among professionals in the field.
- (ii) Creating a platform for networking of professionals and academia in the field of International Trade.
- (iii) Exploring challenges and opportunities in the field of International Trade and finding strategic approaches to overcome those challenges.

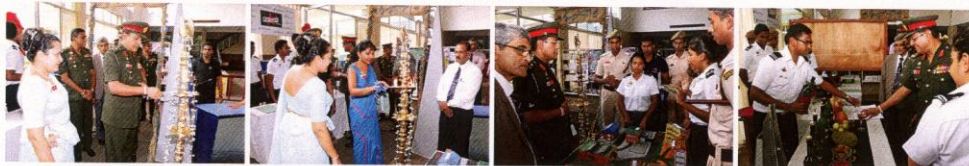
There were around sixty participants from various institutions including the Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Export Development Board, CINEC Maritime Campus, Colombo Dockyard, Ocean University, Prasanna Management Consultants, University of Peradeniya, Sabaragamuwa University, McLaren Logistics and Richardson Projects.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXHIBITION

The concept of an Entrepreneurship Exhibition was developed to evaluate the undergraduates' creativity and innovation skills in developing a business. For the first time in the history of KDU, students of Intake 30 in Logistics Management and Management & Technical Sciences have developed a new business idea and exhibit it in an event called "KDU Young Entrepreneurs 2014". A panel of four judges were invited to evaluate students' effort and select the best business idea. Finally, a complete business plan was prepared based on the idea exhibited.

Students of Intake 31 organized the second business plan exhibition named 'KDU Young Entrepreneurs 2015' on 23rd of October, 2015. The plan and the procedure were well organized and all the students were assigned the task as an assignment at the beginning of the semester with a sample of a detailed business plan. They were given deadlines and a work schedule to submit sections of the business plan. Thus, the students were able to receive much benefit out of this for duly completed sections enabled them to go for quality work with continuous improvements. The lecturer-In-Charge of this exhibition is Ms Kalpana Ambepitiya.



DISASTER MANAGEMENT POSTER EXHIBITION

A Disaster Management poster exhibition was held at the academic building-KDU, on 23rd Oct 2015. Students of intake 32 in Logistics Management and Management & Technical Sciences were given a list of disasters identified by the Disaster Management Centre of Sri Lanka and were asked to develop mitigation measurements to reduce future risks of those disasters. Each student group was supposed to select one disaster and present related mitigation measurements at a given date using posters.

Students were given the following tasks to complete and present in a 4' x 3' poster.

1. A small description of disaster – Impact strength, deaths, property damage etc
2. An analysis of potential vulnerability
3. Common mitigation practices available in the context – Structural and Non-structural
4. Suggestions and ideas on mitigation
5. Recommendations to apply common and new mitigation strategies to Sri Lanka

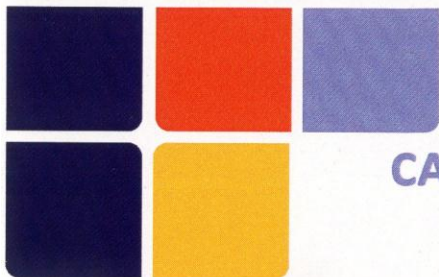
Ten groups from Logistics Management and 05 groups from Management and Technical Sciences presented on 15 different disasters occurring in Sri Lanka. The Possible mitigation practices on landslides, droughts, floods, Tsunami, chemical disasters, Exposure, Epidemics, Earthquakes and Civil Conflicts were presented. The lecturer- In-Charge of this exhibition is Ms Kalpana Ambepitiya.



ESPLENDIDO '15 - TALENT SHOW

ESPLENDIDO '15, a masterpiece organized by the Intake 31 students of Logistics, was a fantastic musical and dancing extravaganza held for the very first time in KDU history, at the BMICH on 18th September, 2015 from 4pm onwards. The objective of this talent competition was not only to search for raw talent in KDU but also to lend a hand to the Cancer Hospital by providing them with necessary medicine for cancer patients with the income generated through this project. The students who got selected through auditions performed head to head against one another in the grand finale in the presence of a crowd of nearly 1400. The competition was held under three categories: Singing, Dancing and Instrumental. The best of the best was rewarded with valuable prizes. The Vice Chancellor Major. Gen. Milinda Peiris graced this occasion as the chief guest along with many other dignitaries in the tri-services, academic staff and non-academic staff of KDU. This project was held under the guidance of Ms. Chathurani Rathnayake (Lecturer-in-Charge) under the supervision of Dr. Namali Sirisoma (HOD- Faculty of Management and Finance). The estimated budget of Rs.950,000/= for the event was funded through the sale of tickets and collection of donations from various donors. Commitment, dedication and hard work of the Intake 31 students of Logistics Management who worked tirelessly all day and night was the main secret behind the success of this mega project which mesmerized the audience with scintillating musical and dancing performances.





CASE STUDY TOUR OF INTAKE 31

The annual case study tour of the Department of Social Sciences took place on the 17th 18th and 19th of September 2015. For this year's study, the department selected 'Maha Oya' Divisional Secretariat (DS) Division in the Ampara District. This case study tour was intended to provide a distinctive field work experience for the BSc Social Sciences undergraduates.

On the 17th, an orientation to Maha Oya division was conducted at Maha Oya DS office. The programme on the 18th was at the Pollebadda Grama Niladhari Division where nearly five hundred indigenous families live. It was organized in order to allow the students to learn how to step into an unfamiliar environment, build rapport with the local community, use everyday conversation as an interview technique, conduct informal observation of activities, record observations in field notes (chronologically) and use both tacit and explicit information in analyzing problems. The final day of the case study tour was spent at the Special Forces Camp – Maduru Oya.

The Department of Social Sciences acknowledge the enormous support extended by the VC, DVC (Defence & Administration), DVC (Academic), Dean (FDSS), Dean (FMSH), Mr. Mangala Wickramasinghe (former DS- Maha Oya), DS, ADS and other officers of the DS office – Maha Oya, Principal and the staff of Pollebadda school, Pollebadda villagers, C/O Maduru Oya SF camp, C/O 3 VIR and C/O 3 WC of Sandunpura and their staff in making this case study tour a success.



HEALTH CAMP 2015

The students of Intake 31 of the Department of Social Sciences of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University organized a Health Camp for the non-academic staff of the university and their families on the 7th of December 2015 at the Faculty of Medicine of the university premises from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm. This was organized as a partial fulfillment of their 4th semester module on Project Management.

The first part of the health camp was general screening and specialist-consultancy service. More than 350 non-academic staff and their family members visited the health camp. Around 20 medical doctors including the KDU Medical Faculty graduated doctors who recently completed their intern joined hands in the general screening. Specialist consultancy service was provided by our own doctors from the Faculty of Medicine, KDU. FAHS provided final year nursing students to assist the doctors, pharmacy lecturers and students to run a pharmacy and lecturers from the Department of Physiotherapy to run a physiotherapy unit during the health camp. Further to this, Sethsarana, Aurvedic Care, Link Sudantha – Dental Care and Apeksha – Fertility Care provided free services on this day.

An educative session was conducted towards the evening while a series of lectures on common diseases, identification and prevention methods was delivered by the Medical Faculty staff and external resource persons.

THE FIELD VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY AND NATIONAL BUILDING AND RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (NBRO)- INTAKE 32

The students of Intake 32 of the Department of Social Sciences participated in a field visit as a practical study of their 2nd semester module on Climatology and Geomorphology. This visit took place on the 24th of July, 2015.

As the first phase of the programme, the students visited the Meteorology Department in Sri Lanka. Following a brief introduction to the Meteorological Department and their procedures and service, the first session based on weather and climate was conducted by Mr. S. Jayasekara, the Director of Forecasting and Decision Support Unit. In order to increase the clarity of the session, Mrs. P.S. Wijayarathne, Officer-in-charge of Radar Branch, demonstrated a live upper air observation by sending a pilot balloon with a GPS receiver while demonstrating their measuring equipment. Later, Mr. S. Jayasekara explained on 'Thunder and Lightning in Sri Lanka that generates a hazardous impact, especially during the inter-monsoon period of the country. Visiting the National Building and Research Organization (NBRO) was the second phase of the programme. The three-hour session at the NBRO conducted by Mr. Clarence Perera, Mr. T. Rasarootan and Ms. T.H.E. Dulanjalee gave students an informative demonstration on landslides in general, the role of NBRO in identifying and minimizing risks of landslides, the process of landslide zonation mapping in Sri Lanka and the current projects implemented by the NBRO in order to make disaster management more effective and efficient in Sri Lanka.



WALK ORGANIZED BY WOMEN IN LOGISTICS...

WiLAT (Women in Logistics and Transport), the women's body of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), organized a walk with the objective of creating awareness and promoting gender diversity in the field of Logistics and Transport. The theme of the walk was 'Striking a Balance on Logistics and Transport'. The Walk was held on 05th September 2015 from 7.30 a.m. onwards. The Total length of the walk was around 5 km which started from the Independence Square. It continued along Maitland Place, Nelum Pokuna Road, Dharmapala Mawatha, CWW Kannangara Mawatha and back to the Independence Square. There were more than 400 participants from the University of Moratuwa, CINEC Maritime Campus, KDU, industries in the Logistics sector and general public while media coverage of the event was given by Eye Channel, Newspapers, Social media and CILT website.

KDU took part in the event with a group of students of Department of Management and Finance. The students of Intake 32 won the 1st place in the Treasure Hunt game by finely exhibiting their thinking and decision making capacities. A float, an aircraft, which was designed by KDU won the 3rd place in the float competition. This was a good opportunity to market the Logistics Management Degree and introduce students who are reading for their undergraduate degree to the industry.

Dr. Namali Sirisoma, Head of the Department of Management and Finance is an Executive Member of WiLAT Sri Lanka and she represented KDU in WiLAT and CILT activities. In addition, staff members of the Department, Mrs. Kalpana Ambepitiya, Mrs. Dilani Ratnajeewa and Ms. Danisha De Mel also took part in the event with the students.



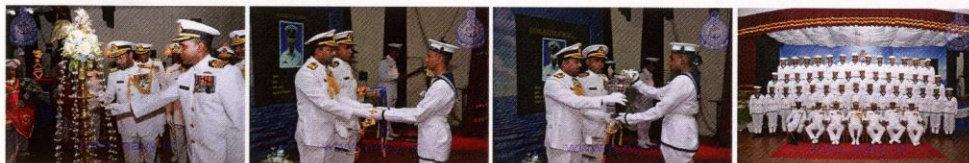


CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY OF LONG LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT COURSE

The certificate awarding ceremony of the 2nd Long Logistics Management Course (LLMC) was held on 27th February 2016 at the Naval and Maritime Academy, Trincomalee. The Chief Guest on the occasion was the Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Navy, Rear Admiral SS Ranasinghe.

LLMC is the highest professional course conducted for the officers of the Logistics Branch of the Sri Lanka Navy. Lecturers from the Department of Management and Finance also conduct lectures for LLMC at Naval and Maritime Academy.

The Head of the department Dr. Namali Sirisoma, Dr. Kamal Tilakasiri, Mr. Wasantha Premaratne, Ms. Chathurani Rathnayake, Mr. Lahiru Gunatilake and Ms. Danisha De Mel from the Department of Management and Finance participated in this occasion representing the Department of Management and Finance, Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

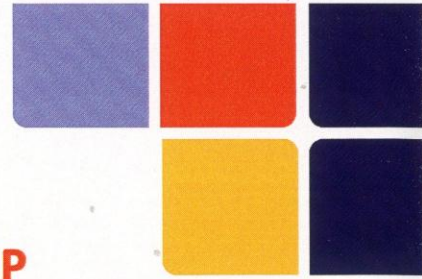


LOGISTICS CONFERENCE AT TRINCOMALEE

The lecturers of the Department of Management and Finance marked their presence at the Logistics Conference 2016 held on 26th February 2016 at the Naval and Maritime Academy, Trincomalee. The Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral R. C. Wijegunaratne was the chief guest at this occasion.

The Head of the department Dr. Namali Sirisoma, Dr. Kamal Tilakasiri, Mr. Wasantha Premaratne, Ms. Chathurani Rathnayake, Mr. Lahiru Gunatilake and Ms. Danisha De Mel from the Department of Management and Finance participated in the said conference. One of the sessions was chaired by Dr. Namali Sirisoma.





CAREER GUIDANCE WORKSHOP

The Department of Management and Finance, in the Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, organized a career guidance workshop on 3rd March 2016 from 1430 hours to 1730 hours. The workshop was held at the main auditorium, with the participation of Intake 31 and 32 undergraduates of the Department of Finance, reading for BSc in Logistics Management and BSc in Management and Technical Sciences. The event was graced by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence and Administration) as the Chief Guest, Major General JR Kulatunga and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor MHJ Ariyaratne.

The students of the Department of Management and Finance of Intake 31 will be undergoing an internship in the final semester (Semester 6) which will commence in July, 2016. The prime objective of the workshop is to enable the students to gain background knowledge and understanding about the industry under the theme, "Successful Transmission from University to Professional Life".

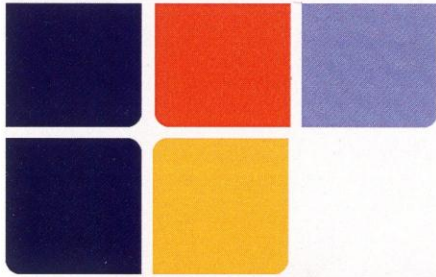
In order to conduct the workshop, two resource persons from the industry were invited. Accordingly, the keynote speakers were Mr. Ashok Vasudevan, General Manager - Taj Airport Garden Hotel and Mr. Rukmal de Silva, CEO/Chief Visionary Officer - 361degree Edge (Pvt) Ltd. Mr. Ashok Vasudevan elaborated on the importance of choosing the right career path, what the industry expects from the graduates, the importance of identifying one's own strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Mr Rukmal De Silva focused on the matters mainly in terms of facing interviews, writing proper CVs and being presentable when facing interviews.



COUNSELLING WORKSHOP FOR PROFESSIONALS

The third annual 'Counselling Workshop for Professionals' organized by the Department of Social Sciences of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was successfully held on the 01st and 2nd of April 2016 at the University premises. The theme for the workshop was "Fostering Resilience and Working with Stress". The aim of the workshop was to increase awareness among professionals on occupational stress and stress handling mechanisms in order to increase their motivation and productivity. The participants included officers from the tri-forces, academia, student counsellors from different universities and executives from private sector organizations. The workshop comprised of sessions on Introduction to Mental Health and Psychological Counselling, Understanding Stress and the Body-Mind Relationship, Managing Stress and Work Life Enrichment, Music therapy, Mindfulness, Relaxation and other Stress Relief Techniques and group activities.





LOGISTICS DAY 2016

'Logistics Day 2016' organized by the Department of Management and Finance was held successfully for the second consecutive year on 31st March, 2016 at the auditorium of the Faculty of Graduates Studies. This time the event was embellished by the theme "Together Towards Tomorrow for Sustainable Logistics System", which under the present scenario can be deemed as a vital move for the development of the economy. The event was organized by the students of Intake 31 of the department along with the guidance of Dr. Namali Sirisoma and Mrs. Kalpana Ambepitiya. The evening session comprised of the main activities of the day, and it was graced by Rear Admiral JJ Ranasinghe, the Vice Chancellor of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

The morning session was dedicated to conducting a quiz competition and there were 06 higher education institutes taking part in it. The evening session comprised of two informative speeches of Mr. Rohan Masakorala and Mrs. Gayani De Alwis based on sustainable trends in the global logistics field.

The event was sponsored by the platinum sponsor, the South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd, the gold sponsor Sri Lankan Airlines and three silver sponsors - Hemas Logistics, DIMO PLC and Wickramaratne Group. The event was held under the guidance of Ms Kalpana Ambepitiya (Lecturer-In-Charge) and the supervision of Dr Namali Sirisoma.

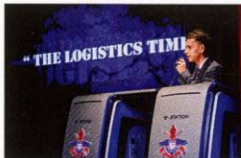


INAUGURAL LAUNCH OF FIRST LOGISTICS MAGAZINE IN SRI LANKA

The students of the Department of Management and Finance took the initiative to make History by launching the magazine "Logistics Times" (for the very first time in Sri Lanka) giving prominence to Logistics and Transportation. The magazine was launched on the 31st of March 2015 at the Annual Logistics Day graced by the Vice Chancellor of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University along with many corporate sector participants.

"Logistics Times" features interviews conducted by our own undergraduates with prominent personalities of the Industry, such as Mr Rohan Masakorala, Mr Siva Ramachandran, Mr Hanif Yusof, Mr Ranjith Pandithage, Mrs Gayani De Alwis, Mr WKH Wegapitiya, Mr Chinthaka De Zoysa, Mr Chandana Wijayanama, Mr Jagath Pathirana and also the Head of the Department of Management and Finance of the University, Dr Namali Sirisoma. The magazine consists of educative articles on some major companies like Hemas and other articles written by our own lecturers, students of Intake 31 and students of Intake 32, on different topics relevant to Logistics and Transportation. The magazine also features the winning essay of the essay competition of Logistics Day 2016.

The writers of the magazine focused on the finer, yet often controversial, aspects of university undergraduates and the industry requirements of logistics undergraduates. Along with a diverse set of writers, both from the staff and students, the editors' and designers' only goal was to educate all college undergraduates on what they will need in future to be in a leading position and to give them diverse knowledge on all areas of Logistics. The students have successfully achieved their dream of publishing the Logistics Magazine for the very first time, which was highly appreciated by all professionals, students and other readers. The publication of the Logistic Times was guided by of Ms Kalpana Ambepitiya (Lecturer-In-Charge) and was supervised by Dr Namali Sirisoma.



OPENING OF THE UNIVERSITY SITE MAP

The students of Intake 31 of the Management & Technical Sciences Degree Programme proudly presented the first ever site map of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University as a partial requirement for the Project Management Module.

The group of students consisting both cadets as well as day scholars came up with the concept of representing and illustrating the university premises as a measure to provide a user-friendly guide to all guests and individuals who enter the university in order to reach their required destinations.

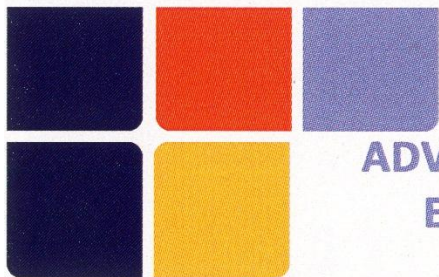
On 31st March 2016, the site map was unveiled by the Vice Chancellor of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Rear Admiral Jagath Ranasinghe. The Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies, Brigadier Adeepa Thilakarathne, The Dean Faculty of Management, Social Sciences & Humanities, Dr. MM Jayawardhane, The Head of the Department of Management & Finance, Dr. Namali Sirisoma, lecturer in-charge of the Project Management Module, Ms. Chathurani Rathnayake and other faculty members were present at this event.



ADVANCED CERTIFICATE COURSE IN ENGLISH

The Department of Languages conducted its inaugural Advanced Certificate Course in English for Academic Purposes (ACCEAP) for 91 student officers selected as entrants for the 2016 Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) course in Sapugaskanda. The intense three month certificate course which commenced in October 2015 was designed to improve the proficiency level of English and research writing skills of staff college entrants. At the end of the course, a certificate awarding ceremony was held on 31st Dec 2015, with the participation of the Vice Chancellor of KDU as the chief guest at the KDU main auditorium. Rector-Southern Campus, Major General Lal Gunasekara, DVC (Defence and Admin), Major General Ruwan Kulatunga, Dean-FMSH, Dr. MM Jayawardana and HoD-Languages, Mr. Kithsiri Amaratunga and the lecturers of the Department were also present at the occasion.





ADVANCED CERTIFICATE COURSE IN ENGLISH FOR THE ARMY SCHOOL OF LOGISTICS, TRINCOMALEE

The Department of Languages of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University commenced the Advanced Certificate Course in English for Academic Purposes (ACCEAP) for 26 student officers selected to read for the MBA in Logistics Management. The course inauguration was held on 1st March 2016 at the mini auditorium, with the participation of the Dean FGS, Brigadier Adeepa Thilakarathna as the chief guest.

Also present at the event were Dean FMSH Dr. MM Jayawardana, HoD Languages Mr. Kithsiri Amarantunga and Deputy Registrar Cdr Jayathilaka. The ACCEAP is a three month certificate course which focuses on developing research writing skills of student officers in English.



COMMUNICATION SKILLS PACKAGE FOR SRI LANKA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE (SLAS) CADETS

On a request made by the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA), KDU designed a Leadership and Competency Development Programme for Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) Cadets. The whole programme runs in five batches and each batch has one month of in-house training at KDU, and around 40 SLAS cadets are in one batch.

The Department of Languages contributes to this programme by designing and teaching the Communication Skills package of this programme. The Communication Skills package aims at developing English language competencies of SLAS cadets through contact sessions with a variety of activities, which encourage collective and participatory learning. The objective of this is to provide an opportunity to develop their confidence in using the language for both oral and written communication in their personal and professional lives.

The first batch started their training on 8th February 2016, and three batches have already completed their training at KDU. The feedback given by the participants indicate that the Communication Skills package is highly useful for their career advancement.



SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS 2016

The Badminton team of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University participated in the 56th Novices Badminton Championship organized by Sri Lanka Badminton Association (SLBA). This was held at SLBA badminton courts from 7th April to 9th April 2016.

There were many participants from a number of institutions including the Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air force. For the first time ever in KDU history, players showcased brilliant performance in all three forms of the games held. The majority of champions were from the faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Men's Doubles – Champion

LG/15/14 DS RK Ranathunga

ENG/15/38 DS KDOV Dharmathilaka

Women's Doubles – Champion

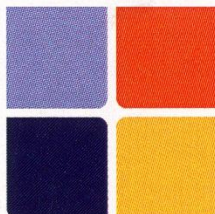
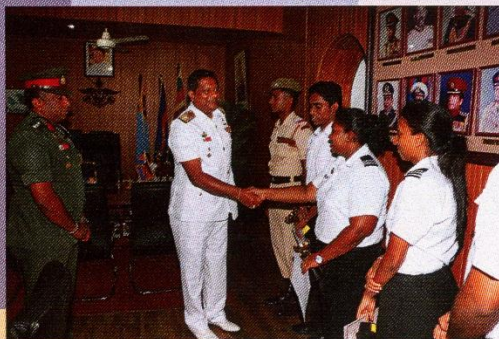
ENG/14/62 DS PHPP De Silva

MTS/14/17 DS WKDY Wickramasinghe

Mixed Doubles – 3rd Place

LG/15/14 DS RK Ranathunga

MTS/14/17 DS WKDY Wickramasinghe



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