30 Years of
Civil Engineering @
OUSL
1985 - 2015

Department of Civil Engineering
The Open University of Sri Lanka

The University

The establishment of the Open University in Sri Lanka was done under the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978. The Open University in Sri Lanka commenced its operations by incorporating into its system the External Services Agency (ESA) and the Sri Lanka Institute of Distance Education (SLIDE).

The Open University adopts a concept known as Open and Distance Learning (ODL), which essentially is a multimedia study system developed by the Open Universities overseas with modifications to suit local conditions. The teaching methodology is through specially designed printed material, audio visual aids, face-to-face teaching, seminars, workshops, laboratory and field work depending on each programme of study.

The Department

Department of Civil Engineering at the Open University of Sri Lanka has undertaken the challenge of teaching a Civil Engineering degree programme though distance mode where no such programme is conducted elsewhere in the world. Hence this unique challenge is bravely faced by the Academic and non-Academic staff of the Department amply supported by other departments of the Faculty of Engineering Technology of the OUSL.
The Civil Engineering Diploma/Degree programme was started since establishing the Division of Civil Engineering in 1985 with three Senior Academics under the leadership of Prof. Alagaiah Thurairajah. The two other senior academics were Mr. Olsen Gunawardena and Dr. Sunil Perera. Prof. Thurairajah (affectionately referred to as Thurai) was selected as the first Dean in the newly established Faculty of Engineering Technology in 1987. He served as the Dean, Engineering Technology for one year up to 1988 when he was released from the Faculty to accept the post of Vice-Chancellor at the University of Jaffna which he held close to his untimely death in 1994. Although Thurai was the Chair Professor of Civil Engineering up to 1994, the Department missed the opportunity of obtaining his valuable contribution due to his commitment as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna from 1988 to 1994.

The Division of Civil Engineering saw a gradual increase in the number of senior academics from its beginning and started a Postgraduate programme in the field of Construction Management in 1991, leading to a PG Diploma and a Degree of Master of Technology. In 1995 Dr. Gamini Abeywardana former Head of the Division was elected as the 4th Dean of the faculty (2nd member from the Division to be elected as the Dean, Faculty of Engineering Technology) where he continued till 1998. The year 1996 saw the Division of Civil Engineering being upgraded to the status of a Department. During the 1990s the Department was able to
attract many senior academics with excellent credentials in academic as well as professional spheres of Civil Engineering, including PhD holders from many internationally reputed universities. This enhanced the academic standards and prestige of the Department.

During the late 1990s, along with the other departments of the Faculty, the Department was earnestly involved in acquiring the recognition of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka, (IESL) for the Degree of Bachelor of Technology in Engineering offered in Civil and several other disciplines. Through due cognizance paid to IESL recommendations which resulted in a major curriculum revision carried-out in 2002, with two academic staff members from the Department being in the IESL Council to champion the cause, the Faculty was successful in obtaining full recognition for the Degree of B.Tech. (Eng.) on par with B.Sc. Eng. degrees offered by Universities of Peradeniya and Moratuwa. As a result IESL recognition, graduates in Civil Engineering from the Department were able to obtain AMIESL straightaway which enables them to proceed directly towards gathering experience for obtaining the Charter in Engineering. The Department reputation for conducting an academically as well as professionally sound undergraduate programme was further enhanced with this recognition by the IESL. Even more significantly, this made the Department of Civil Engineering of OUSL, the third Department in a Sri Lankan university to produce recognized Civil Engineering graduates after the corresponding departments at universities of Peradeniya and Moratuwa.
The third Dean Engineering to be elected from the Department was Dr. Janaka Liyanagama who served as the Dean from 2007 to 2009, when he had to relinquish the post to be appointed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) in 2009. Up to date he has served as DVC under two Vice-Chancellors.

The year 2009 saw the physical shifting of the Department and the Faculty of Engineering Technology along with the Faculty of Natural Sciences to the newly constructed Science & Technology building under the leadership of Prof. Manojya Pallewatta, Acting Dean of the Faculty. The new facility offered the Department with a well equipped research laboratory while upgrading accommodation for the staff.

It is noteworthy that in 2008, Prof. Manojya Pallewatta was promoted (on merit) as the first Associate Professor in Civil Engineering in service, to be subsequently promoted in 2009, to post of Professor in Civil Engineering (on merit), in the Department. Further, Prof. Kolita Weerasekera was promoted as the first Professor in Civil Engineering (on merit), in 2009, in the Department to be subsequently promoted in 2012 to the Department Chair which had been vacant for 18 years (after demise of Prof. Thurairajah in 1994) as the Professor of Civil Engineering.

At the university convocation of 1994, the first batch of 08 students graduated with the Degree of Bachelor of Technology in Engineering [BTech. (Eng.)], specializing in
Civil Engineering. Since then the Department has been able to produce 228 B Tech. (Eng.) graduates in Civil Engineering over the last 20 years.

Enrollment and performance of students in the postgraduate programme in Construction Management offered by the Department has also been impressive. Having created the first Postgraduate Diplomate in 1994 and the first Master of Technology graduate in 1996 the Department is proud to have produced 124 postgraduate Diplomas and 17 Master of Technology Degrees during the intervening years. In the sphere of research degrees the Department has produced two M Phil degrees.

After 30 years of existence and progress, the Department now has an Academic and Academic Support staff of 17 and non Academic staff of 08, further assisted by 08 Temporary Demonstrator cadres. It is quite significant that majority of the Academic staff members are Chartered Engineers with field experience. The Department at present, is conducting 41 Courses supporting academic Programmes leading to Diploma, Degree, Postgraduate Diploma and Masters qualifications in the field of Civil Engineering. In the spheres of research and national contributions, many Academics of the Department are significantly contributing in various capacities, relating to Engineering as a whole and Civil Engineering in specific.

Being the department in the University dedicated to Civil Engineering responsible for planning design and
construction of infrastructure facilities, several professionally qualified academic staff members have been providing extensive consultancy for University infrastructure development. As a result, during the past five year period the University was able to construct several urgently needed buildings in a very cost effective manner, mainly owing to an innovative structure/foundation system developed by the Department intended for reclaimed land.

OU Buddhist shrine, Total partitioning of the Science & Technology Building, building for Staff Development Center, 700 seat Auditorium in Hall No. 3, Colombo Regional Center Stage 2 Building, Exam Halls No. 4 & No. 5, are among several successful projects completed by the Department.

Presented in the following pages are some relevant information concerning the Department, which seems relevant to be recorded at this historical milestone of completing 30 years of service to the academia and the profession of Engineering, by this premier unconventional academic department.
Leadership to the Department

Heads of the Department of Civil Engineering
(1985 – 1987) - Prof. A. Thurairajah
(1988 - 1995) - Dr. A. G. K. de S. Abeyesuriya
(1995 - 1996) - Mr. K. Karunakaran
(1996 – 1999) - Dr. J. Liyangama
(1999 – 2002) - Dr. H. G. P. A. Ratnaweera
(2004 – 2007) - Mrs. M. N. Tantirimudalige
(2007 – to date) - Prof. T. M. Pallewatta

Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering
(1985 – 1994) - Prof. A. Thurairajah
(1994 – 2012) - Vacant
(2012 – to date) - Prof. K. S. Weerasekera

Academia of the Department

Professors
Prof. A. Thurairajah – (Professor of Civil Engineering, Chair)
BSc Eng(Hons)(Cey), Ph.D(Cantab.), MICE, FIE(SL), C.Eng
(1985 – 1988) at Department of Civil Engineering, OUSL
(From 1988 – 1993) VC University of Jaffna (Released on secondment from OUSL)

Prof. K. S. Weerasekera – (Professor of Civil Engineering, Chair)
BSc Eng (Moratuwa), MEngSc (UNSW), PhD (UNSW), FIE(SL),
CEng, Int. PEng (SL), MIE (Aust), CPEng, MIHT (UK), MASCE
(1998 – 2009) – Senior Lecturer
(2009 – to date) - Professor

Prof. T. M. Pallewatta – (Professor in Civil Engineering)
BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa), MEng(AIT), DEng(Tokyo),
Int. PEng(SL), CEng, FIE(SL), FIAE(SL)
(1996 – 2008) – Senior Lecturer
(2008 – 2009) – Associate Professor
(2009 – to date) - Professor
Senior Lecturers
MSc (Eng) (Hons) (Moscow), PhD (Moscow), CEng, MIMM

Mr. O. A. Gunawardena (1985 – 1996)
BSc. BSc Eng (Cey), DIC(Lond.), MICE, CEng

Dr. A. G. K. de S. Abeysuriya (1987 – 2013)
BSc Eng (Hons) (Cey), MSc (Leeds), PhD (Leeds), MCIHT (UK), CMILT (UK)

Mr. W. V. K. M. Abeysekera (1989 - 1992)
BSc Eng (Hons) (Moratuwa), MSc(L’boro), MIE(SL), CEng.

Mr. C. Panditha (1991 - 1993)
BSc Eng (Hons) (Moratuwa), MSc(L’boro), MIE(SL), CEng

Dr. J. Liyanagama (1992 – to date)
MSc (Eng)(Hons) (Moscow), PhD (Moscow)

Mr. K. Karunakaran (1993 - 1996)
BSc Eng(Hons)(Sri Lanka), MIE (SL), MICE, CEng, MIWEM

Miss. I. Pannila (1993 - 1993)
BSc Eng(Hons)(P’deniya), MPhi (OUSL)

Mrs. P. N. Kodikara (1993 - 1998)
BSc Eng(Hons) (Moratuwa), MSc(L’boro), MIE(SL), CEng.

Dr. H. G. P. A. Ratnaweera (1993 – to date)
BSc Eng (Hons) (Moratuwa), MS (NJIT), PhD (NJIT)

Mrs. M. N. Tantirimudalige (1994 – to date)
BSc Eng(Hons)(Sri Lanka), MTech (OUSL), MIE(SL), MICE, CEng

Dr. D. A. R. Dolage (1994 – to date)
BSc Eng(Moratuwa), MSc(Reading), MBA(SJP), MA(Colombo), DBA(Uni SA), FIE(SL), CEng
Dr. K. I. M. Ranasoma (1994 – 1998)
BSc Eng(Hons)(P’deniya), Ph.D(Cantab)

Dr. R. St. G. S. De Costa (1996 – 2001)
BSc Eng(Moratuwa), MSc(Hiroshima), DEng(Hiroshima), MIAHR, MIE(SL)

Dr. (Mrs.) P. S. Sivasegaram (1997- 2007)
BSc Eng(Cey), MSc(Lond), PhD(Oxford), FIE(SL), CEng

MSc (Leningrad), Ph.D. (Leningrad), FIE(SL), CEng

Dr. P. N. Wikramanayake (1999 – to date)
BSc Eng (Hons)(P’deniya), MSc (MIT), PhD/MIT, MIE(SL), CEng

Dr. (Mrs.) B. C. L. Athapattu (2003 – to date)
BSc Eng(Moratuwa), MEng(Osaka), PhD(Osaka), MIE(SL), CEng

Dr. (Mrs.) P. S. D. Aluvihare (2003 – to date)
BSc Eng(Hons)(P’deniya), MSc (Saitama), PhD(Saitama)

Dr. (Mrs.) L. A. Udamulla (2004 – to date)
BSc Eng(Hons)(P’deniya), MPhi (Hong Kong), PhD(Melb.), AMIE(SL)

Mr. C. Kulasuriya (2007 - 2010)
BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa), BA(Kelaniya), MEng(Moratuwa), MIE(SL), CEng

Mr. M. N. C. Samarawickrama (2008 – to date)
BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa), MSc(P’deniya), MBA (Moratuwa), MIE(SL), CEng, MGS(SL)

Mr. L. S. S. Wijewardena (2010 – to date)
BSc Eng(Hons)(P’deniya), MEng (AIT), MIE(SL), CEng, MIHT(UK)
Dr. T. C. Ekneligoda (2011 – 2013)
*BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa), MPhil(Moratuwa), MSc (KTH, Stockholm), PhD(KTH, Stockholm), AMIE(SL)*

Mr. D. I. Fernando (2013 – to date)
*BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa), MSc (Moratuwa)*

Dr. P. A. K. Karunananda (2013 – to date)
*BSc Eng(Hons)(Peradeniya), MPhil (Peradeniya), MEng(Ehime), DEng(Ehime), CEng, MIE(SL)*

Dr. P. K. C. De Silva (2014 – to date)
*BSc Eng (Hons)(Moratuwa), MSc (Moratuwa), PhD(Saitama), AMIE(SL)*

**Lecturers**

*BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa),*

*BSc Eng (Hons) (Moratuwa),*

**Lecturer (Probationary)**

Mr. R. P. de Silva (1986 - 1990)
*BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa)*

*BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa).*

*BSc Eng (Hons)(P’deniya)*

*BSc Eng (Hons)(P’deniya), PhD(Cantab)*
*BTech (Eng)(Hons)(OUSL)*

Mr. D. I. Fernando (2005 – 2013)  
*BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa)*

Mr. D. P. M. B. Thibbotuwawa (2014 – to date)  
*BTech(Eng)(Hons)(OUSL), BSc(Colombo)*

**Engineering Teaching Assistants**

*B.Sc. (Eng)(P’deniya), PG Dip(Moratuwa)*

Miss. V. Kumaraswamy (1991 - 1994)  
*BSc Eng (Peradeniya),*

Mr. M. M. Jayathilake  
*ETA - (1994 - 2006), Snr. ETA - (2006 – to date)  
BSc Eng(Moratuwa), AMIE(SL)*

*BSc Eng (Moratuwa)*

**Educational Assistants**

Mr. R. A. Wijesinghe (1985 – 2000)  
*Cert in BC, Cert. In Struc Eng (Katubedda), Cert in BQ*

Miss. I. Pannila (1987 - 1992)  
*BSc Eng(Hons)(P’deniya)*

Mr. G. K. Y. Y. Perera (1987 - 1990)  
*BSc Eng(Moratuwa)*

Mr. S. Daluwatta (1987 - 1991)  
*BSc Eng(Hons)(Moratuwa)*
Non Academic staff of the Department

Technical Officers

Mr. A. U. B. Rajaguru (1982 – to date)
Mrs. N. P. M. Rajaguru (1986 – to date)
Mr. B. Amarasinghe (1987 – 1994)
Mr. N. K. Abeywardhana (1995 – 1999)
Mr. B. C. S. Perera (2006 - 2008)
Mr. W. M. S. S. B. Weerasekera (2009 - 2014)
Mr. M. R. Prasad (2014 – to date)

Computer Application Assistants/Data Entry Operators

Mrs. B. A. S. U. Bogoda (1994 – to date)

Laboratory Attendants

Mr. M. H. Hemapala (1992 – 2013)
Mr. R. A. A. Ranasinghe (1992 – to date)
Mr. L. Gunawardhana (1992 – 1996)
Mr. Abeyrathne
Mr. Sisira Kumara (1997 – 1999)
Mr. Surendran (2001 - 2001)
Mr. S. Jayathilake (2001 – 2003)
Mr. T. Wijesinhe (2006 – 2009)
Mr. M. R. S. K. Wipulasena (2009 – to date)
Mr. G. K. L. Dayawansa (2009 – to date)
Mr. D. C. G. Fernando (2014 – to date)
Staff of the Department 2013/09/30

Front Row (L-R) - Dr. (Mrs.) L. A. Udamulla, Dr. (Mrs.) B. C. L. Athapattu, Mrs. M. N. Tantirimudalige, Prof. K. S. Weerasekara, Dr. A. G. K. De S. Abeyasurya, Prof. T. M. Pal Hewatta, Dr. (Mrs.) P. S. D. Aluvihare, Dr. P. A. K. Karunana

Second Row (L-R) - Mr. R. A. A. Ranasinghe, Mr. M. M. Jayatilake, Dr. P. N. Wikramanayake, Dr. H. G. P. A. Rathnaweera, Mr. L. S. S. Wijewardena, Dr. D. A. R. Dolage, Mr. M. N. C. Samaranwickrama, Dr. T. C. Ekneligoda, Mr. D. I. Fernando

Third Row (L-R) - Mrs. B. A. S. U. Bogoda, Mr. W. M. S. B. Weerasekara, Mr. A. U. B. Rajaguru, Mrs. N. P. M. Rajaguru, Miss. G. H. I. Diyes, Mrs. K. N. D. Gunawardena, Mr. M. Sujeeva, Mrs. D. M. O. N. Dissanayaka

Graduates of the Department

BTech (Eng) Graduates in Civil Engineering
From the Convocation of 1994 to 2014 a total of 228 students have graduated.

![Civil Engineering Graduates Chart]

Department of Civil Engineering, The Open University of Sri Lanka
Ranks of the BTech (Eng) Graduates in Civil Engineering

1st Class (Honours)
(2001) - Miss. V. S. Samathar

2nd Class Upper (Honours)
(2001) - Mr. A. D. Swampille
(2003) - Mr. H. G. M. Jayanath
(2005) - Mr. M. Mihindupriya
(2005) - Mr. K. I. Surendra
(2005) - Mr. J. A. J. I. K. Jayakody
(2006) - Mr. D. R. P. K. Kalapuge
(2007) - Mr. W. D. S. H. Dissanayaka
(2007) - Miss. T. P. G. P. R. Gurusinghe
(2008) - Miss. M. W. T. M. Indrawansha
(2009) - Miss. T. N. Bulugahapitiya
(2012) - Mr. D. P. M. P. Thibbotuwawa
(2014) - Mr. S. A. Y. B. Jayasinghe

2nd Class Lower (Honours)
(1994) - Mr. B. M. W. Basnayake
(1994) - Mr. A. Thalangama
(2004) - Mr. H. P. K. S. Pathirana
(2007) - Mr. W. C. P. Abhayasiri
(2009) - Miss. C. J. Alawatugoda
(2009) - Mr. R. A. D. I. C. Ratnayake
(2011) - Miss. A. S. Amarasinghe
(2012) - Mr. R. M. Mayuran
(2012) - Miss. U. A. Gopallawa
(2012) - Miss. M. Bulathsinhala
(2012) - Miss. A. I. Gurusinghe
(2012) - Mr. S. Umakanth
(2013) - Miss. G. H. I. Diyes
(2013) - Mr. H. W. I. Prabath
(2014) - Miss. M. B. M. De Costa
Postgraduates of the Department

Created by this pioneering academic department in Engineering, dedicated to open and distance learning methodology of delivery, the postgraduate programme in Construction Management has been a success and is popular among graduate Engineers seeking professional advancement.

M Tech Graduates & PG Diplomates in Construction Management

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Convocation Year</th>
<th>No. of PG Diplomates</th>
<th>No. of M Tech Graduates</th>
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<td>1994</td>
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<td>1995</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>124</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Among the PG Diplomates and M Tech Degree holders are mainly practicing Engineers attached to government departments, boards, corporations, and private sector construction as well as consultancy organizations. It is also noteworthy that many of these postgraduates are Chartered Engineers. Names of the Master of Technology graduates are listed below, with their respective years of graduation.

M Tech Graduates

(1996) - Mr. M. P. M. Kulatilleke
(1997) - Mr. J. K. Lankatilake
(1997) - Mr. K. A. Munasinghe
(1997) - Mr. Y. S. K. Perera
(1997) - Col. E. A. D. A. S. De Alwis
(1997) - Mrs. M. N. Tantirimudalige
(1997) - Mr. D. M. S. Dissanayake
(1998) - Mr. S. M. A. Senaratne
(1999) – Mr. D.D. De Saram
(2000) - Mrs. C. P. De Costa
(2005) - Mr. A. Ranasinghe
(2005) - Mr. N. Suthesan
(2009) - Mr. A. E. R. S. Miranda
(2012) – Mr. T. Pathmarajah

M Phil Graduates

In the sphere of higher degrees, the Department has produced two M Phil Degrees awarded in 2000 to Mr. S. A. Nandadeva and in 2001 to Mr. T. A. Gamage.