

Designing and managing international relations, educational projects and mobility schemes in Asian Universities
Erasmus+ KA102 Capacity Building in Higher Education

CASCADE TRAINING
UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA,
SRI LANKA
22.11.2021



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Introduction & Developing International Strategies for Universities

Neelakshi C. Premawardhena
Director, Centre for International Affairs
University of Kelaniya
Sri Lanka



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

VISION

- **To become a centre of excellence in creation and dissemination of knowledge for sustainable development**

MISSION

- **To nurture intellectual citizens through creativity and innovation, who contribute to the national development.**

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- **Centre for Research Improvement and International Affairs – est. July 2011 (WCU funds)**
- **Centre for International Affairs**
- **Centre for International Relations & International Student Affairs Unit est. Oct. 2014**
- **Centre for International Affairs est. April 2017**
- **The university has unique fields of study that have great potential to attract international scholars and students in large numbers**
- **Increased visibility and international presence through several European Commission funded projects since 2013**

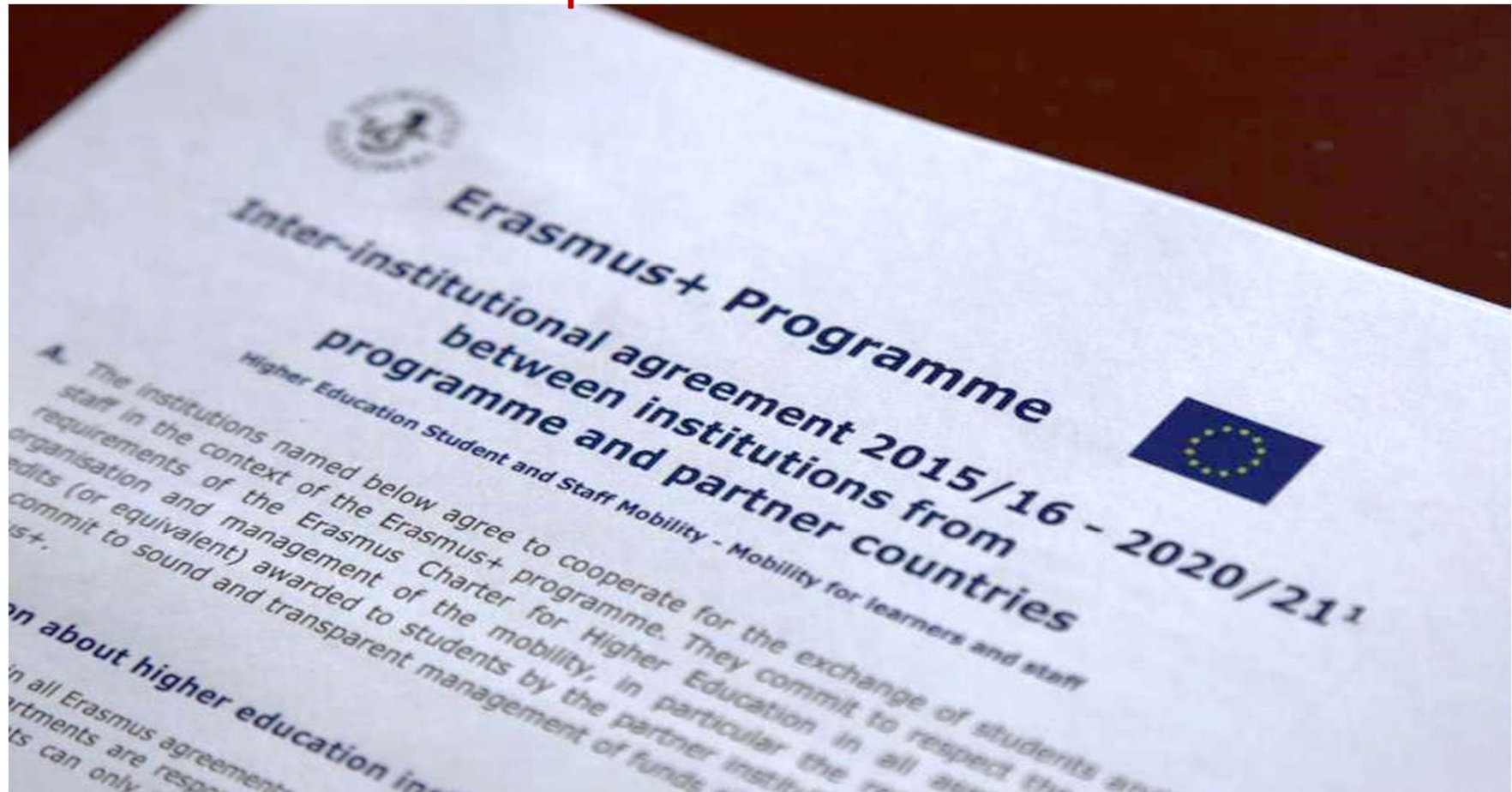
- **University of Kelaniya has the highest number of international students in the country – registered locally and at overseas affiliated institutions**
- **Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Diploma students**
- **Certificate Course in Sinhala for International Students**
- **Commerce and Management Studies, Humanities, Medicine, Science and Social Sciences, Graduate Studies, Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies**
- **Facility for International Credit Transfer**
- **Staff & Student Volunteer Programme**

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

First point of contact for any international scholar, grant agency, prospective student or university

- International Cooperation Division**
- International Student Affairs Division**

International Cooperation



- **Collaboration with international partners**
- **Partner proposals of joint projects with European and Asian universities (e.g.: Erasmus Projects)**
- **Promote academic collaboration and exchange programmes with overseas universities**
- **Disseminate information on grant opportunities**
- **Provide the staff and students with support to apply for scholarships and outgoing mobility grants**
- **Processing and validating applications**
- **Explore opportunities for research collaboration; joint research leading to international publications**
- **Staff and student exchange**
- **Cultural exchange and other international initiatives**
- **Facilitate visitor protocols**

- **Monitor and provide information on the University's current activities**
- **Identify and publicise funding opportunities**
- **Offer advice and assistance to faculty in the preparation and submission of mobility proposals and applications**
- **Maintain active liaison with award agencies, sponsors, research and international education organisation and international offices at other universities**

- **Conducting awareness programmes, Workshops, seminars**
- **Promotion of postgraduate and diploma programmes to attract international students**
- **Supporting incoming and outgoing staff, student mobility**



International Student Affairs



- **Information and assistance to undergraduate and graduate students, exchange students, visiting scholars on study programmes, accommodation**
- **Orientation and cultural exchange programmes**
- **Coordinate the Government of Sri Lanka Presidential Scholarships for Foreign Students with the Ministry of Higher Education, University Grants Commission**
- **Staff/Student Volunteer Programme**

- **Promotion of scholarship/training opportunities through the university website**
- **Providing assistance to outgoing mobility of selected students, academic and administrative staff from the university under different grant schemes including Erasmus+, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Goethe Institute scholarships**
- **Assistance with immigration procedures for incoming and outgoing students and scholars**

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES

The International strategies are aligned with the Corporate Plan/Strategic Plan and the Action Plan of a university

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

- 1. To create a high quality and flexible teaching and learning environment**
- 2. To develop the highest quality faculty and staff to attain the strategic goals of the university**
- 3. To create a multi-disciplinary research culture of global standing**
- 4. To improve the image of the university by widening the range of economic and social engagement**
- 5. To develop an excellent system of governance through efficient and effective administration and financial management**

(Corporate Plan, University of Kelaniya 2021-2025)

GOAL 01: TO CREATE A HIGH QUALITY AND FLEXIBLE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Aims & Objectives

- **To provide students with high quality educational programs**
- **To enhance the accessibility of the university to a diverse student population, including students with special needs and those from other countries, to the university**
- **To increase the employability of graduates from the university.**
- **To develop relationships with employers to help graduates achieve gainful and timely employment.**

GOAL 01: TO CREATE A HIGH QUALITY AND FLEXIBLE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Aims & Objectives contd...

- **To create and maintain a culture that supports teaching excellence in all study programs**
- **To promote the health and well-being of students**
- **To enhance international opportunities for student learning**
- **To improve infrastructure facilities**
- **To improve the university rank in world university rankings**

GOAL 01: TO CREATE A HIGH QUALITY AND FLEXIBLE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Strategies/activities

- **Introduce and conduct innovative, quality and attractive study programs**
- **Revise the existing curricula to meet national and international needs**
- **Encourage lifelong learning in order to enable students and graduates to realize their full potential**

GOAL 01: TO CREATE A HIGH QUALITY AND FLEXIBLE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Strategies/activities contd.

- Provide more opportunities for the development of students' soft skills**
- Provide opportunities for students to get practical experience in the industry, where applicable**
- Conduct an annual, comprehensive assessment of the quality of teaching in each faculty and convey results to staff**

GOAL 01: TO CREATE A HIGH QUALITY AND FLEXIBLE TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Strategies/activities contd.

- **Provide students with more opportunities to participate in sports, clubs and societies, together with opportunities for leadership and formal recognition of their extra curricula activities**
- **Strengthen personal support for students**
- **Provide exchange/link programs with international higher educational institutions**
- **Enhance the physical infrastructure to increase capacity, quality and sustainability of teaching and learning environment**
- **Provide more medical care services for the improvement of student's health**

GOAL 02: TO DEVELOP THE HIGHEST QUALITY FACULTY AND STAFF TO ATTAIN THE STRATEGY GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Aims & Objectives

- **To develop and implement a plan for Human Resources in the university**
- **To recruit and retain the highest quality of academic, administrative and nonacademic staff**
- **To create a safe and healthy work environment for all employees of the university**
- **To create learning opportunities and to increase support (financial) for all categories of staff to obtain relevant academic or professional qualifications**

GOAL 02: TO DEVELOP THE HIGHEST QUALITY FACULTY AND STAFF TO ATTAIN THE STRATEGY GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Strategies/Activities

- **Assess current and future recruitment needs for each department**
- **Establish a succession plan for key positions within each department**
- **Evaluate a performance appraisal system for all staff members and recognize outstanding performance**
- **Identify proper mechanisms to enhance job rotation, job enlargement and job enrichment of employees within the university**

GOAL 02: TO DEVELOP THE HIGHEST QUALITY FACULTY AND STAFF TO ATTAIN THE STRATEGY GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Strategies/Activities cntd.

- **Introduce a grievance handling unit**
- **Provide more opportunities for university community to maintain their physical and mental health**
- **Establish support/training programs for probationary academic staff**
- **Establish support/training programs for administrative officers and other related staff**
- **Increase opportunities for professional/academic development of staff**

GOAL 03: TO CREATE A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CULTURE OF GLOBAL STANDING

Aims & Objectives

- **Develop a research culture in the University by increasing the number of research projects and allocate at least 10% from the University capital budget as research grants**
- **Increase publications in local and international refereed/indexed academic journals**
- **Increase interdisciplinary research**
- **Promote public-private partnership in research and in development and commercialization of new products**
- **Strengthen the university e-library system**

GOAL 03: TO CREATE A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CULTURE OF GLOBAL STANDING

Strategies/Activities

- **Develop the university's research profile to be of national and international importance**
- **Support academic staff who applied for and obtain research grants from national and international funding agencies**
- **Recognize and reward academic staff engaged in outstanding research of international standard**
- **Attract and retain high quality researchers and research students**

GOAL 03: TO CREATE A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CULTURE OF GLOBAL STANDING

Strategies/Activities contd.

- **Facilitate collaborative research nationally and internationally in areas which are of mutual interest**
- **Make the university's research findings available to the wider community**
- **Increase facilities for research activities**
- **Recognize and promote industrial research culture**

GOAL 04: TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY BY WIDENING THE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Aims & Objectives

- **To increase the number of consultancy services / projects provided by the university to the community**
- **To increase the number of activities that support national development**
- **To increase links with professional bodies, industry, social organizations and other stakeholders**

GOAL 04: TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY BY WIDENING THE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Aims & Objectives

- **To increase social responsibility activities**
- **To improve the image of the University**
- **To increase awareness of the study programs offered by the University**
- **To enhance social and intercultural harmony**
- **To enhance the concept of Green University**

GOAL 04: TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY BY WIDENING THE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Strategies/Activities

- **Innovation centre and business incubation centre**
- **Strengthen University-Industry cells to promote consultancies and testing services**
- **Participate in national planning activities and national examinations**
- **Build strategic partnerships with reputed professional bodies and social organizations in the country**
- **Promote a positive image of the university via university social responsibility (USR) and public relations activities**

GOAL 04: TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY BY WIDENING THE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Strategies/Activities contd.

- **Introduce a brand guideline to the university**
- **Promote cohesion among different ethnic and religious communities within the university**
- **Promote gender equity and equality**
- **Enhance cultural, religious, recreational activities in the University**
- **Strengthen Alumni Associations in the University**
- **Develop a better atmosphere in the University in a sustainable manner**

GOAL 5: TO DEVELOP AN EXCELLENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE THROUGH THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Aims & Objectives

- **To develop an efficient system of governance**
- **To incorporate modern technology to enhance the efficiency of the administration**
- **To develop a Financial Administration System which is timely, responsive and accurate, while assuring integrity and promoting accountability in order to optimize utilization of resources**

GOAL 5: TO DEVELOP AN EXCELLENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE THROUGH THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Strategies/Activities

- **Improve infrastructure facilities and maintenance service to provide a conducive working environment for all employees**
- **Evaluate current systems (systems audit) and improve them**
- **Introduce a fully computerized and integrated MIS system for all the administrative divisions of the university**
- **Streamline the process of budgeting**

GOAL 5: TO DEVELOP AN EXCELLENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE THROUGH THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Strategies/Activities cntd.

- **Streamline the process of administering scholarship funds and external research grants**
- **Streamline the process of financial administration of fee-levying courses offered by the university**
- **Maximize utilization of funds received by the University**

INTERNATIONALIZATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

- **Visiting Professorship (incoming) funded by the university since 2016**
- **Facility for International Credit Transfer for incoming and outgoing students since 2015**
- **Establishment of Research Council in 2014 to encourage, recognise and promote outstanding research**
- **Establishment of Centre for International Affairs in 2011**
- **Establishment of Confucius Institute in 2006**
- **Establishment of Korean and Japanese Research Centres**
- **Interactive Learning Centre for German Studies (2013)**

INTERNATIONALIZATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

- **Partnering with overseas universities**
- **Funding for academic staff for doctoral studies, conference participation, publication of research papers**
- **Funding for research projects approved by the Research Council**
- **Research Ethics Review Committee**
- **Senate Awards for academic staff for publications in indexed journals**
- **Vice Chancellor's Awards for research, academic excellence, international recognition, patents**
- **International Conferences**
- **Virtual Mobility for Staff and Students**

INTERNATIONALIZATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

- **Partnering with international organisations and agencies – Japan Foundation, Korea Foundation, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Fulbright Commission, Commonwealth Foundation, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) & Goethe Institute for educational projects, staff and student scholarship grants, visiting professorships**
- **Reaching higher international ranking E.g. THE , QS Ranking**
- **Grant Schemes: World Bank Funded**
- **Higher Education for Twentieth Century (HETC)**
- **Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD)**

INTERNATIONALIZATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

- **Matching objectives, strategies and KPIs with THE and QS rankings**
- **Increasing partnerships with overseas universities for research collaboration, incoming and outgoing staff, student mobility(onsite and virtual) and more training opportunities for administrative staff**
- **Increasing number of international students for postgraduate studies and research**

Erasmus Projects

- **Funded by the European Commission**
- **There are thousands of staff and student mobilities taking place annually since 1987.**
- **What was earlier confined to mobility within Europe, the programme added global dimension in the subsequent years by encouraging collaborative projects with non-EU partner universities.**

- **University of Kelaniya first benefitted from an Erasmus Mundus project that gave mobility opportunities to many students and staff while receiving incoming staff and student mobility**
- **Through this project the visibility of University of Kelaniya in the international higher education sector increased rapidly and many new partnerships were established.**
- **Since 2014 over 115 staff and student mobility grants have been secured by the university while receiving over 60 guest professors and administrative staff as well as a number of students from the EU on incoming mobility.**
- **Currently over 700 students and 100 staff have benefited from Virtual Mobility**

OUR ERASMUS PARTNERS



- **Akdeniz University, Turkey**
- **Bologna University, Italy**
- **Lodz University, Poland**
- **Masaryk University, Czech Republic**
- **New University of Lisbon, Portugal**
- **Polytechnic Pozega, Croatia**
- **Rouen University, France**
- **Szczecin University, Poland**
- **Tallinn University, Estonia**
- **University of Algarve, Portugal**
- **University of Huddersfield, UK**
- **University of Porto, Portugal**
- **University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal**

CHALLENGES

main obstacles to the development/improvement of the international dimension

- **Negotiating and approving MOUs**
- **Status of international offices – one of the significant entities of a university**
- **Appointing permanent employees to the Centre for International Affairs**
- **Budget issues**
- **Visa issues for student mobility to Europe when no diplomatic mission is available in the country**
- **Trade Union action**
- **Terror attacks e.g.; Easter bomb attack in 2019**
- **Prevailing situation due to Covid 19 pandemic**

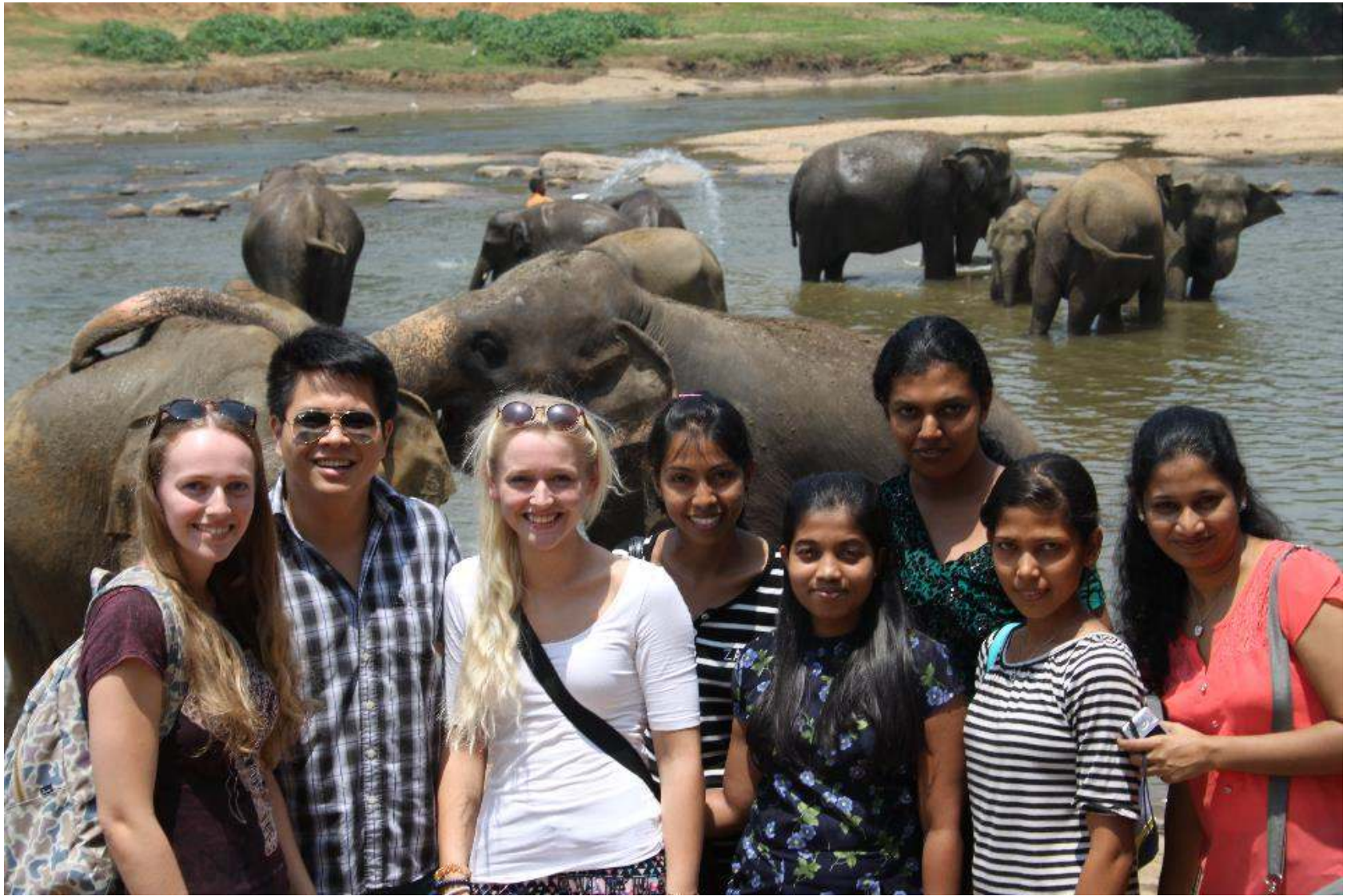
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Visiting delegates**
- **Agreements**
- **Workshops**
- **Awareness sessions**
- **Cultural exchange**



































CONTACT

Centre for International Affairs <http://units.kln.ac.lk/CFIR/>

Director: Snr. Prof. Neelakshi C. Premawardhena

cinta@kln.ac.lk

Tel.: 797 (extension) +94 112903797; +94 112991838

Coordinator, International Cooperation

Ms. Sashini Chandrasekara

sashiniic@kln.ac.lk

Coordinator, International Student Affairs

Ms. Sanduni Iddamalgoda

cinta@kln.ac.lk