

31st PGIA Annual Congress

The PGIA Annual Congress is a scientific forum for researchers to present, discuss and disseminate their scholarly research findings in Agriculture and allied disciplines to a wider international scientific community. The 31st Annual Congress of the PGIA was held during 21-22 November, 2019 at Amaya Hills Resort, Kandy.

It provided an opportunity for postgraduate students to showcase their research findings to an audience comprised of academics, researchers, PGIA alumni and other stakeholders. In this year, 33 oral and 10 poster presentations were made under ten scientific sessions on Molecular Genetics and Biodiversity, Statistics and Forecast, Seeds to Product, Material Science in Agriculture, Developmental Extension, Food and Nutrition, Trade, Nutrition and Welfare of Animals, Land and Soils, Agricultural Pests and Diseases and Poster Session.

Prof. Alistair Hetherington, Melville Wills Chair of Botany, University of Bristol, United Kingdom and the Editor-in-Chief of 'New Phytologist' graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest and also delivered the keynote speech on 'Successful Scientific Publishing: Lessons Learnt from New Phytologist'.

Several other dignitaries including Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, The Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Gamini Pushpakumara, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. C.M.B. Dematawewa, Director, PGIA addressed the Inaugural Session of the Congress. Prof. Casper Venk, ETH Zurich, Switzerland and Dr. Tadayuki Tsujita, Department of Applied Biochemistry and Food Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Saga University, Japan delivered the invited speeches.

Mr. George Daevey and Ms. Josephine Davey, Directors of Pirrama Consulting Pty Ltd., Australia joined the Congress as Panelists in a Panel Discussion.

Mr. Andrew Samuel, Head of Micro Finance/ Chief Continuous Improvement Officer at Alliance Finance Co. PLC delivered the Distinguished Alumnus speech at the closing session.