

## IDTDS Annual Report 2025 (February-September)

Eight (08) meetings were held from February to September 2025. Names of the members, their positions, and the attendance are given in the table below.

No.	Name	Position	Attendance (08)		
			P	AB	EX
1.	Snr. Prof. Charmalie Nahallege	Chairperson, IDTDS – SLAAS	08	-	-
2.	Dr. Kanishka Wijayarathna	Secretary, IDTDS – SLAAS	08	-	-
3.	Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa	General President, SLAAS	06	02	-
4.	Prof. Sumedha Jayanetti	Past Chairperson, IDTDS – SLAAS	04	02	02
5.	Prof. Ranjith Senaratne	Past General President, SLAAS	04	-	04
6.	Prof. R.D. Wijsekera	Immediate Past General President, SLAAS	-	08	-
7.	Dr. Parakrama Weligamage	General President-Elect, SLAAS	02	06	-
8.	Dr. Pasan Bandara	Past Secretary, IDTDS – SLAAS	01	07	-
9.	Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe	Committee Member	07	-	01
10.	Prof. Prasad Jayaweera	Committee Member	08	-	-
11.	Prof. Ruchira Cumararatunga	Committee Member	05	01	02
12.	Prof. Preethi Udagama	Committee Member	03	04	01
13.	Prof. Mahesh Jayaweera	Committee Member	04	04	-
14.	Prof. Saumya Liyanage	Committee Member	01	07	-
15.	Dr. Rodney Fernando	Committee Member	02	05	01
16.	Dr. Hiranya Kelum	Committee Member	03	05	-
17.	Prof. M.N. Kaumal	Committee Member	03	05	-
18.	Prof. Meena Senthilnathanan	Committee Member	04	04	-
19.	Dr. Mihirini Wagarachchi	Committee Member	05	02	01
20.	Prof. Sanjeewanie Ginigaddara	Committee Member	-	08	-
21.	Prof. Thusitha Kumara	Committee Member	04	01	03
22.	Dr. Riyas Ahamed	Committee Member	04	03	01
23.	Prof. Vijitha Herath	Committee Member	03	04	01
24.	Prof. Enoka Kudavidanage	Committee Member	-	07	01

*P- Present*

*AB - Absent*

*EX - Excused*

This report presents a summary of the activities and initiatives carried out by the Committee on Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (IDTDS) in 2025, aimed at advancing scientific engagement through the promotion of interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research in Sri Lanka. Between February and September 2025, the committee successfully conducted four programs under this initiative.

## Program 01 - World Water Day Program

<https://www.youtube.com/live/K13RYxfTknA?si=MfeuZLgSRNetNJOE>

A programme for school children was organized on World Water Day in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the Central Environment Authority (CEA), and the Institute of Environmental Professionals Sri Lanka (IEPSL). It was held on the 21st of March at the Yellow River Auditorium, IWMI, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Two guest talks were delivered by Prof. Dewaka Weerakoon on “*Scientific Perspectives on Water Resources in Sri Lanka*” and Prof. Praneeth Abhayasundere on “*The Cultural and Anthropological Significance of Water.*” One of the inaugural addresses was delivered by Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa, General President of SLAAS.

In addition, two activities based on AI-related work on water were conducted with technical assistance from six members of FORTUDE, and a quiz competition was organized by the CEA for the students. Gifts for the winners were sponsored by ATLAS and IFS Sri Lanka. All participating students were awarded certificates of participation.



## Program 02 - Awareness Workshop on IDTD Studies

The awareness workshop on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies was successfully held at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2025. Emeritus Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe, representing the IDTDS Committee, and Dr. Shyam Kularathne from the Department of Transdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, served as the resource persons for the workshop. Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe delivered a presentation aimed at *fostering dialogue and enhancing understanding of interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches in academic research and practice*. Dr. Shyam Kularathne conducted a session on *Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Sustainable Solutions*. A total of 40 participants attended the workshop in person, while 20 others joined via Zoom. This workshop was jointly organized by the IDTDS Committee and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



The poster features a pink and white hexagonal pattern background. At the top, it lists the organizing bodies: Committee on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies, Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science, and Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The title 'Workshop on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies' is prominently displayed. Below, it identifies the resource persons: Professor Saroj Jayasinghe (MBBS, MD(Ch), MD(Ortho), MRCP(UK), FRCP(Lond), FRCP(Colomb), FACP, FRASLS, Consultant Physician, Former Chair Professor of Medicine, Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka) and Dr. Shyam Kularathna (B.Sc Eng (Hons), Honorary M.Sc. (IT/MS), Ph.D., (IT/MS), DSA Power Flexible Head Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura). The event is dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. It is organized by the Committee on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies (IDTDS), Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science (SLAAS) in collaboration with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



## Program 03 - The Holistic Health Camp

The Holistic Health Camp, jointly organized by the Holistic Care Centre of the Faculty of Health Care Sciences, Eastern University of Sri Lanka, the Committee on Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (IDTDS), and Nawaloka Hospitals was successfully held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2025. The event brought together over 400 participants, including school children, and served as a platform to promote community health and interdisciplinary collaboration. The program received contributions from multiple faculties of the Eastern University, including the Faculties of Health Care Sciences, Agriculture, Technology, Science, Commerce and Management, and Arts and Culture. The Faculty of Science presented informative posters on cyber security and the health hazards of plastics and microplastics, while the Faculty of Arts and Culture performed an awareness street drama on the health implications of using skin-whitening creams. The Faculty of Agriculture organized demonstrations and poster presentations on nutrition, focusing on locally available foods and home gardening using organic fertilizers, and the Faculty of Technology conducted demonstrations on food preservation techniques for seasonal produce. The Faculty of Commerce and Management encouraged participants to engage in small businesses and entrepreneurship related to health and nutrition. The event was made possible through the generous sponsorship of Nawaloka Hospitals, coordinated by Prof. Lal Chandrasena, Director of Nawaloka Hospitals, with the support of Mr. Dinesh Kumara, Head of Professional Relations, and his team. Their contribution, valued at approximately LKR 1.5 million, covered medicine, payments for medical officers, laboratory tests, advertising materials, participant transport, and refreshments. The success of the program was due to the dedicated efforts of the Dean of the Faculty of Health Care Sciences, the Deans of the other contributing faculties, the Director of the Holistic Care Centre. The event was highly commended for its interdisciplinary approach and was recognized as a model initiative to be replicated in other universities across Sri Lanka.



## Program 04 - Second Awareness Workshop on IDTD Studies

An Awareness Workshop on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies was successfully conducted at the University of Ruhuna on October 10, 2025, from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The event was organized with the objective of promoting awareness and understanding of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches in research and higher education, thereby encouraging collaboration across diverse academic domains.

The workshop commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Hemali Munasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Science. The workshop featured three distinguished guest speakers:

- Emeritus Prof. Ranjith Senarathne: *“Needed: A Shift from Disciplinary Silos to Transdisciplinary Engagement”*
- Prof. Prasad M. Jayaweera: *“Synergy of Disciplines for Total Success”*
- Dr. P. Ranasinghe, Director, Business Cell, ITI Colombo: *“The Role of Interdisciplinary Research in Building Sustainable Commercial Enterprises”*

An interactive discussion and experience-sharing session was held, with the panel members comprising the three guest speakers, Emeritus Prof. Ruchira Cumarantunga, and Prof. Champika Ellawala.

The workshop was well attended by academic members representing several faculties of the University of Ruhuna, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Sunanda Kodikara on behalf of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS), who expressed gratitude to the guest speakers, organizing committee, and participants for their valuable contributions to the success of the workshop.

