

NEWSLETTER



Centre for Open & Distance Learning

The Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) at the University of Jaffna is proudly celebrating its 33rd anniversary in 2024, marking over three decades of successful operation in expanding access to higher education. Established in 1991 as the External Registration and Examination Unit, CODL was initially created to offer external degree programs to individuals who were unable to attend traditional university system. The efforts were led by Professor P.Balasundarampillai, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and formally inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Professor A.Thuraiajah. The unit began with the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce degree programs, which officially commenced on April 22, 1991.

Over the years, the unit expanded its offerings and in 2009, introduced programs, the Bachelor of Business Management program was added and CODL expanded its offerings and underwent significant transformations. In 2010, CODL transitioned to a semester-based system, with a combination of face-to-face and virtual learning. In 2012, the unit was formally renamed CODL, marking a new chapter in its journey of growth and innovation.

As it celebrates its 33rd anniversary, honoring 33 years of growth and innovation, CODL continues to thrive, offering more than 20 certificate and diploma courses in addition to its Three degree programs Including Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Business Management. The center's growth is also reflected in its improved infrastructure, including the opening of the E-Hall building in 2014, which further supports its expanding student base. CODL's ongoing success is a testament to its dedication to provide quality education and make higher learning accessible to all.



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE- CHANCELLOR

Reality is more beautiful than any imagination. Social inclusion, lifelong learning and education for all become a meaningful reality with the presence of open and distance mode of learning educational programmes offered by HEI's. In this respect Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) of the University of Jaffna offers at present three degree programmes: BBM, B.Com and BA with annual enrollment of 850 and more than 20 Diploma and Certificate programmes, which are tailored to quench the knowledge thrust and cater the need of the society. Launching this first newsletter is a praiseworthy effort. It showcases CODL's current activities and successes, serving as a vital source of information for students, staff and the wider community. This newsletter aims to keep everyone updated on the latest happenings and opportunities at CODL. I sincerely hope that CODL will continue to expand its services, reaching a wider audience and empowering individuals across our society. By doing so, CODL can make a lasting impact on the live of many, fostering growth and development in our community. I commend the Director Prof.J.Robinson and his team.

All glories to Almighty

Prof.S.Srisatkunarajah



MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER OF CODL

I am happy to write a message to the proposed newsletter of the Centre for Open and Distance Learning. The CODL of the University of Jaffna walks a history of thirty three years in well established centre, efficiently functioning with the support of the academic staff and conducts a number of degrees, diploma and certificate courses.

The students are empowered through number of educational methods of the CODL. I kindly request the students especially there who have missed the university admission to fulfill their educational aspiration through the CODL. I also kindly request the CODL also to enrich and enhance the activities.

I wish you all the very best.

Prof. emerit. Balasuntharampillai



MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR CODL

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to address you all through the first newsletter of the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL). Established in 1991,

CODL has been steadfastly committed to serve the community with dedication and excellence from its inception to the present day. Over the years, CODL has evolved to meet the changing needs of society, and we are proud to currently offer three-degree programs along with more than 20 certificate and diploma courses. These programs are meticulously designed to provide accessible, high-quality education that empowers individuals and supports lifelong learning. The launch of this newsletter marks a significant milestone in our journey. This first edition captures the vibrant activities and initiatives taking place at CODL, offering valuable insights for students, staff, and the broader community. Highlights our continuous efforts to innovate and adapt, ensuring that our educational services remain relevant and impactful.

we envision CODL as a pivotal force in extending educational opportunities, fostering personal and professional growth, and contributing to the overall development of society. Through this newsletter, we aim to keep you informed and engaged with our progress and achievements. Together, let us strive to make a positive impact and create a bright future for all.

Prof. James Robinson



MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT REGISTRAR CODL

We are delighted to introduce the inaugural issue of the Centre for Open & Distance Learning (CODL) newsletter. This publication marks a significant milestone for our community, offering a new platform to share news achievements, and updates on the diverse range of activities within CODL. Currently CODL offers three degree programs and More than twenty certificate, diploma courses.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and engaging, benefiting our students. Your support and participation are invaluable as we continue to grow & succeed together.

Mrs. Kohini Sapatithan



WISHING NOTE FROM ALUMINI

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the activities of the Centre for Open and Distance Learning more than three decades. Due to the educational system of our country, very few people are selected to pursue internal university degrees. I am proud to congratulate an endowment Centre for Open and Distance Learning that has been providing equal educational opportunity to all aspiring graduates for more than three decades with the effort, dedication and energy needed to achieve target. I earned my first degree through this Centre as Bachelor of Business Management (online) – 4th Batch. I am proud to say that this degree was essential to my career in banking and that Business Management degree was the academic discipline that laid the foundation for my continued studies in higher education. I sincerely wish that the work of the Centre for Open and Distance Learning, which is working very dedicatedly to realize the university dream of thousands of users like me and provide equal educational opportunities to all, may continue beyond many years.

Thank you

Mr.B.Thirukkumar
Executive Officer
Bank of Ceylon

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Learning Management System Workshop

A workshop on Learning Management Systems (LMS) was conducted on January 27th, March 2nd and 10th, empowering our educators with innovative tools and techniques to enhance the learning experience.

Student Information System Workshop

A workshop on Student Information System (SIS) was conducted for 1st year students to apply for the exam through online get the admission on online hence display of result Moreover, this system is introduced to CODL first time by Mrs.Nijani Programmer cum System Analyst. its held on 24th February Saturday 2024.





38TH GENERAL CONVOCATION 2024

The 38th General Convocation held on March 16th, 2024. This event was a celebration of the remarkable achievements of our dedicated learners. The total of 288 members proudly graduated from the Bachelor of Arts degree program (Batch I ODL - 2016), while 42 graduates successfully completed the Bachelor of Commerce degree program (2022), Demonstrating their unwavering dedication to academic excellence. In addition to these achievements, 31 individuals were honoured with diplomas in Banking Finance, recognizing their specialized expertise in the field. Furthermore, 24 learners were celebrated for their diploma in proficiency in Professional English.





BBM & Bcom Orientation Programme

The Orientation Programme for Bachelor of Business Management degree programme provided students with valuable insights into their academic journey ahead. Held at the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, the event marked the beginning of an exciting learning adventure.



The Bachelor of Business Management Premier League 2024



The Bachelor of Business Management Premier League at the University of Jaffna , CODL in 2023 marked an exciting event for students. The final match and awarding ceremony took place on sixth of January 2024 at 2.00 PM, hosted at the Ariyalai Community Centre ground. The ceremony was gracefully organized by the Bachelor of Business Management students Batch XI, adding a touch of class to the occasion. Amidst cheers and anticipation, the final match showcased the culmination of talent and skill displayed throughout the league.

As the event concluded with the presentation of awards, it served as a celebration not only of sporting excellence but also of the camaraderie and sportsmanship fostered throughout the tournament.

BA Orientation Programme 2024



The Orientation Programme for the Bachelor of Arts degree programme (New Batch III) provided students with valuable insights into their academic journey ahead. Held at the Kailasapathy Auditorium on 23rd of November, 2024, the event marked the beginning of an exciting learning adventure. The Vice Chancellor of University of Jaffna Professor Sivakolundu Srisatkunarajah, participated as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished attendees included the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the Director and Deputy Director of CODL, Heads of Departments from the Faculty of Arts, and the Assistant Registrar of CODL. Approximately 400 students participated in the programme.



Programmes align with Golden Jubilee Celebration at CODL



In 2024, a significant milestone was achieved as CODL organized competitions specifically for its students for the first time. On October 19, 2024, a debate competition and a research discussion forum were held, providing students with a platform to demonstrate their skills and dedication. The participating students showcased remarkable commitment, highlighting the positive impact of CODL's educational outreach on student engagement and development.

Moreover, under the theme of "Social Contribution of CODL," a blood donation camp was organized by the staff and students on November 16, 2024, along with a tree-planting campaign to enhance the environment around CODL. As part of this social initiative, a video clip creation competition was also held, encouraging the students to creatively express CODL's contribution to the society.



MoU with Kandhaia Foundation Australia

The Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) at the University of Jaffna has recently partnership with the Kandhaia Foundation Australia, marking a significant milestone in international collaboration. This partnership brings forth a series of short courses aimed at enriching educational offerings and strengthening global ties. These courses include Teaching Phonological Awareness and Phonics for English in Schools, Teaching Language and Reading Comprehension, and The Lotus Reading Program.

MoA with EDC

(MoA) between the Education Development Consortium and the University of Jaffna, Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) on 12th of March 2024. The Vice-Chancellor signed on behalf of the University of Jaffna, CODL, while Mr. Nadarajah Satchithanathan signed on behalf of the Education Development Consortium (EDC). The purpose of the MoA is to conduct a diploma course for preschool teachers in the Northern Province to enhance their professional competencies and qualifications.

MoA with Department of Local Government

The Northern Province has introduced a Diploma Course in Property Valuation, specifically designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of officers from local authorities. The programme aims to strengthen their expertise in property assessment, ensuring accurate valuations that support effective financial management and sustainable practices within local government.

The first batch of participants began the course on 24th August 2024, marking a significant step in improving governance at the local level. This initiative is expected to contribute to fair revenue generation, equitable taxation, and improved resource management, fostering long-term development in the region.

MoA with National Peace Council of Sri Lanka

The Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL), in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, has partnered with the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to offer the Advanced Certificate course in Inclusive Service Delivery for Sustainable Peace. This part-time programme, conducted over one academic semester, is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable peace and inclusive service delivery. The course integrates theoretical and practical approaches to foster effective and equitable practices, contributing to national peacebuilding efforts.

MoA with Jaffna Oriental Studies Society

Collaboration between the Jaffna Oriental Studies Society (JOSS) and the University of Jaffna, Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) on 21st March 2024. The Vice-Chancellor signed on behalf of the University of Jaffna, CODL, while Mr. M.N. Kadampeswaren, the General Secretary of JOSS, signed on behalf of the Jaffna Oriental Studies Society.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) aims to offer Pandithar and Bala-Pandithar Academic Programmes through CODL of UOJ with academic support of Department of Tamil. This collaboration seeks to enhance linguistic excellence and cultural preservation, representing a significant milestone in Tamil language development.

The Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) has launched a range of short courses, diploma programs, and professional development initiatives, offering more than 20 programs spanning various disciplines. The Faculty of Arts provides diverse offerings, including the Certificate Course in English, Certificate Course in Basic Sinhala, and the Advanced Certificate Course in Inclusive Service Delivery for Sustainable Peace, alongside diploma programs such as the Diploma in Professional English, Diploma in Preschool Education, and Diploma in Counselling. The faculty also collaborates with the Tamilology Library to offer the Diploma in Bala Pandithar. The Faculty of Medicine delivers specialized certificate courses like the Certificate Course in Semenology, Reproductive Health, Health Informatics, Perioperative Care, and Family Health. The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences features programs such as the Higher Diploma in Physical Education and the Certificate Course in Transfusion Medicine for Nurses. The Computer Unit provides the Certificate Course in Basic ICT Skills, while the Faculty of Science offers the Certificate Course in Computing and additional specialized courses, including the Certificate Course in Building Blocks of the Internet of Things, Programming in Python for Problem Solving, Responsive Web Development and Advanced Web Development.

Introducing New Diploma and Certificate Courses



The Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce offers diploma programs such as the Diploma in Banking and Finance, Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management, and Diploma in Property Valuation. CODL also collaborates with Dr. Donna Vaughan, President of the Kandhaia Foundation, Australia, to offer specialized certificate courses, including Teaching Phonological Awareness and Phonics for English in Schools, Teaching Language and Reading Comprehension, and the Lotus Reading Programme.



Farewell Event for Bachelor of Business Management Final Year Students



On 18th of February 2024, the final year students of the Bachelor of Business Management Degree Programme- batch IX organized a heartfelt farewell event to honor their lecturers and other staff. The occasion served as a farewell and a delightful get-together, where outgoing students expressed their sentiments and shared their experiences with friends, as well as academic and non-academic staff.

LEADERS OF CODL JOURNEY

The establishment of CODL was led by several key individuals who played a pivotal role in its evolution from the External Unit to the Distance Learning Unit, and eventually, to CODL. Prof. P. Balasundarampillai and his team initially organized the External Unit at the University of Jaffna. The following individuals served as coordinators and significantly contributed to the development of what is now known as CODL.



Prof. P. Balasundarampillai
Coordinator
01.09.1991 - 1996.08.31



Mr. M. Nadarajasundaram
Coordinator
01.09.1996 - 31.08.2001



Prof. N. Gnanakumaran
Coordinator
01.09.2001 - 31.08.2002



Prof. S.T.B. Rajeswaran
Coordinator
2002 - 2008



Prof. K. Gugabalan
Coordinator
2008 - only one month



Mr. S. Sivarajah
Coordinator
15.08.2008 - 13.06.2015



Prof. B. Nimalathasan
Coordinator 14.06.2015 - 31.12.2015
Director
1.1.2016 - 31.08.2020



Prof. Mrs. R. Yogendrarajah
Director
02.09.2020 - 31.10.2023



Prof. J. Robinson
Director
01.11.2023

STAFF AT CODL

DIRECTOR



Professor J. Robinson
Director of CODL.
B.B.A(Hons), M.Com(kln),
PhD(New zealand)
Professor in Human Resource
Management

DEPUTY DIRECTOR TRAINING & IQAC COORDINATOR



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Management

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, LEARNING RESOURCES



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Department of Financial
Management

DEPUTY DIRECTOR CERTIFICATE DIPLOMA / COURSES



Dr. A. Saravanabawan
Senior Lecturer Gr – I
B.B.A (Hons), MBA (pdn), MA
(Jfn), PhD (China)
Department of Human Resource
Management

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR BA DEGREE PROGRAMME



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Department of Geography

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR BBM DEGREE PROGRAMME



Mr. S. Balaputhiran
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Senior Lecturer Gr I,
Department of Accounting

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR B.COM DEGREE PROGRAMME



Mr. M. Umakanth
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MBA (OUSL)
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ASSISTANT REGISTRAR



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MPM(Sjp), HNDE

PROGRAMMER CUM SYSTEM ANALYST GR.II



Mrs. Nijani Niroshan
B.Sc (Hons) in Information
Technology (Mrt)
PGDip in Computer Science (Mrt)



Ms.T.Kajanthini
Tutor- Mentor
(Contract)



Ms.S.Mathusha
Tutor -Mentor
(Contract)



Ms.P.Arathiya
Tutor - Mentor
(Contract)



Ms.W.Thirumagal
Tutor -Mentor
(Contract)



Mrs.T.Kalaivani
Tutor - Mentor
(Contract)



Ms.N.Suganiya
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Ms.P.Sangeerthana
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Mrs.D.Ajanthini
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Mr.P.Pathmanathan Office
Machine Operator



Ms.Thadsika MA
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Mrs.S.Gowriga
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Ms.A.Marijo
MA Gr- III



Mr.T.Changeevan
MA Gr- III



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