



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT – 2025



Department of Project Management, Faculty of Business Studies, University of Vavuniya

The Undergraduate Research Symposium on Project Management (URSPM) – 2025 was successfully held at the Faculty of Business Studies, University of Vavuniya, under the theme "Innovative Practices in Project Management." Organized by the Department of Project Management, this full-day academic event provided a platform for final-year undergraduate students to present their research findings and engage with academic and industry experts. The symposium began at 8:00 AM with registration, followed by traditional opening ceremonies including oil lamp lighting, national anthem, and a welcome dance. The morning session featured addresses by key figures including Mr. V. C. Kumara (Convener), Mrs. S. Mathivathany (Head of Department), and Prof. Y. Nanthagopan (Chief Guest and Acting Vice Chancellor). Multiple keynote speakers delivered presentations, including Mr. Vijayakumar Thavendran from PMI Sri Lanka on global project management evolution, Ms. Anoja H. Basnayaka from A. Baur & Co. on digital transformation, and Eng. Mr. N. Suthakaran on public sector infrastructure projects.

The highlight of the morning was a panel discussion moderated by Prof. Y. Nanthagopan, featuring diverse industry professionals including Dr. S. Suresh Surendran, Mr. Aruna Kooragamage, Mr. N. Harsha Jeyarathna, Mr. Theepan Sudar, and Mr. Jude Walten. The panel addressed innovative practices in project management, with Mr. Sudar's notable insight that "project sustainability starts with people-first thinking" sparking discussions on human-centric design and ethical leadership. Following the lunch break, afternoon technical sessions commenced at 1:30 PM across four parallel tracks with 44 student presenters divided into groups of 11 each. Track 1 focused on Agile Project Management in Lecture Hall 1, Track 2 covered Regional Planning and Development in Lecture Hall 2, Track 3 examined Risk and Disaster Management in SH4 Hall I, and Track 4 explored Leadership and Development in SH4 Hall II. Each session was chaired by experienced faculty and external professionals who provided expert feedback to students. The symposium concluded at 4:00 PM with a formal closing session where certificates were awarded to all presenters, best presenters from each track, and appreciation letters to moderators. The event successfully combined academic rigor with practical relevance, elevated student research capabilities, and provided meaningful knowledge exchange while reaffirming the Department of Project Management's commitment to academic excellence and professional development.





