

Higher Education for the Twenty-first Century
World Bank Assisted Project

Progress Report (January – April 2013)

Objective: The main objective is to enhance the capacity of higher education system and to deliver quality higher education services in line with equitable, social and economic development needs of the country.

University Development Grant (UDG)

The aim of this sub-component is to strengthen the economic and social relevance of university programmes. To achieve this, the UDGs support activities to

- enhance ICT skills of students;
- improve English Language skills of students;
- strengthen the soft skills of students;
- promote ethnic cohesion among students and staff;

The University of Jaffna received a grant of Rs.70 million under UDG in stage-1. The progress from January-April 2013 is reported below:

Sub Activity	Progress	PIC	Disbursement (Rs.)
Activity 1 - Enhancing ICT skills			
Awareness programme for ICT staff on effective teaching of ICT	Conducted on 23 January & 7 February 2013 by Dr K P Hewagamage, UCSC.	Dr S Mahesan & Dr E Y A Charles	97,770.00
Enhancing the use of software packages in respective study areas	Training on SPSS was conducted from January - March 2013. Resource persons were Dr. S. Arivazahan, Dr. B. Nimalathan, Mr. S. Balaputhiran & Ms. Sanmugalingam of the University of Jaffna	Dr S Mahesan & Dr E Y A Charles	
Improving the environment for self access learning	Contract to procure PCs & laptops has been awarded. Bid document (works) submitted for WBs' NOL.	Dr E Y A Charles	
			97,770.00
Activity 2 - Improving English Language skills			
Training of staff (ELTC) in effective/modern teaching methodology	Conducted on 28 & 29 March 2013 by Dr. R. De. Silva & Ms. P. Nagasundaram	Dr T Karunakaran	
Improving teaching-learning and self-learning environment and language learning facilities	Bid document (works) submitted for WBs' NOL. Multimedia presenters for the lecture halls procured.	Dr E Y A Charles	987,000.00

Encouraging oral communication skills through various activities	Chemical Society conducted a debate competition on 19 February 2013 among the students of Faculty of Science	Dr T Manoranjan & Dr M Senthilnathanan	
Promoting writing skills by encouraging to produce or publish magazines / newsletters	Science Students' Union published a newsletter on 8 February 2013.	Dr M Senthilnathanan & Dr T Karunakaran	500.00
			987,500.00
Activity 3 - Strengthening Soft skills			
Creating environment to practice soft skills by students in each faculty/unit	Bid document (works) submitted for WBs' NOL. Multimedia projectors & accessories have been procured 11 digital copiers are procured	Dr E Y A Charles	1,184,400.00 5,408,480.00
Establishing a cell for soft skill development under Career Guidance Unit	Bid document (works) submitted for WBs' NOL.	Dr E Y A Charles	
Training of trainers on soft skills development	Conducted from 22-25 April 2013 by Dr B M K Perera, Director/Career Guidance Unit, University of Peradeniya	Dr S N Surendran	
Workshop on soft skills development for students	Conducted from 13-15 March 2013 by John Keells Foundation	Dr K Suthakar & Dr S N Surendran	
			6,592,880.00
Activity 4 - Promoting Ethnic Cohesion			
Organizing sports competitions, games and cultural programmes at inter-faculty and inter - university levels	Cricket tournament held at the Vavuniya campus on 18.01.2013 Sports equipment are procured.	Mr K Ganeshanathan & Prof T Velnamby Prof T Velnamby	50,000.00 242,540.00
Joint Celebration of cultural festivals by students of all ethnic communities	Celebration of Thai pongal at Vavuniya Campus	Dr T Mangaleswaran	10,695.50
			303,235.50
Total			7,981,385.50

Grant for External Degree Programmes

The University of Jaffna received a grant of Rs. 20 million to improve quality and relevance of External Degree Programmes (EDPs).

Sub Activity	Progress	PIC	Disbursement (Rs.)
Improving quality & relevance	Training workshop on <i>Curriculum development and preparing proposal to the UGC for approval</i> was conducted on 11.03.2013 by Prof. H. Abeygunawardena and Dr. Gominda Ponnampereuma	Prof. P Ravirajan & Mr K Sivarajah	

A Computer application Assistant (on contract basis) has been appointed.

Quality & Innovation Grants (QIGs)

Activities supported by the QIG are quite diverse, and they fall into one of the four windows created to account for that diversity.

- Window One: Undergraduate Programs - Arts and Management Faculties
- Window Two: Undergraduate Programs - All other Faculties
- Window Three: Postgraduate Research Programs
- Window Four: Research Dissemination and Commercialization Projects

QIG (Window 1)

The BBA study programme received a grant of Rs. 20 million.

A Computer application Assistant (on contract basis) has been appointed.

QIG (Window 2)

The Biological Science study programme received a grant of Rs. 25 million.

Sub Activity	Progress	PIC	Disbursement (Rs.)
Modernizing the curricula	Workshop was conducted on 24 April 2013. Resource persons were Dr G A D Perera, Prof. D S Jeyakody, Dr R G S E Rajapakse & Prof J P Edirisinghe	Dr P Sevel & Mr A C Thavaranjit	
Establishing University-Industry/Institute links	4 academics visited few industries from 9-13 April 2013 to facilitate students' industrial training / internship	Dr (Mrs) A Sivaruban & Mrs. K Niranjan	

A Project Management Assistant (on contract basis) has been appointed.

Human Resource Development (HRD):

The list of academic staff members of the University of Jaffna, who commenced postgraduate studies after January 2013 in various Universities under HRD Grant, is reported below:

Name	Faculty / Unit	Degree Sought
Ms.R.Ragavan	Dance	MPhil
Ms.S.Nagenthiran	Chemistry	PhD
Mr.S.Thirukumaran	Applied Science	MPhil
Mr.K.Sunmuganathan	ELTC	PhD

Dr Meena Senthilnathanan
Director/OTS