

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

**Progress Report**

**Background:** Higher Education for the Twenty First Century Project is a credit given to the Government of Sri Lanka by the International Development Association (World Bank) amounting to US\$ 40 Mn for the period of 5 years from 2011 to 2016.

**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.

**Project Components:** The HETC is organized with four components.

- Developing a Sri Lanka Qualification Framework and Quality Assurance and Accreditation System for Higher Education in Sri Lanka
- Promoting relevance and quality of teaching and learning in all 15 Universities
- Strengthening the alternative higher education by developing the Advanced Technological Institutes of the SLIATE
- Strengthening human resources of the higher education system

**University Development Grants (UDGs)**

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;
- improve quality and relevance of External Degree Programmes (EDPs)

The University of Jaffna received a grant of Rs.70Mn under UDG in stage-1. The progress is given below:

Sub Activity	Progress	PIC	Disbursement (Rs.)
<b>Activity 1 - Enhancing ICT skills</b>			
Awareness programme for ICT staff on effective teaching of ICT	Conducted on 23-24 January 2013 by Dr K P Hewagamage, UCSC.	Dr S Mahesan & Dr E Y A Charles	
Improving the environment for self access learning	TEC report to procure PCs & laptops submitted for WBs' NOL. Bid document (works) submitted for WBs' NOL.	Dr E Y A Charles	
<b>Activity 2 - Improving English Language skills</b>			
Training of staff (ELTC) in learners' motivational strategies, recognising	Conducted on 28.05.2012 by Prof. Manik Gunasekara & Prof.	Dr T Karunakaran & Mr V Suntharesan	89,521.00

classroom learning issues and counselling	Archana Parakrama		
Improving teaching-learning and self-learning environment and language learning facilities	Bid document (works) submitted for WBs' NOL.	Dr E Y A Charles	
<b>Activity 3 - Strengthening Soft skills</b>			
Creating environment to practice soft skills by students in each faculty/unit	Bid document (works) submitted for WBs' NOL. 11 digital copiers are procured	Dr E Y A Charles	
Establishing a cell for soft skill development under Career Guidance Unit	Bid document (works) submitted for WBs' NOL. A duplo machine is procured.	Dr E Y A Charles	571,200.00
<b>Activity 4 - Promoting Ethnic Cohesion</b>			
Organizing educational tours / programmes and inter-university cultural and sports activities	Students of the Faculty of Agriculture, UJ & Uni. of Peradeniya participated in an activity to promote ethnic cohesion on 12-12-2012 during educational tour of UJ students to Peradeniya	Dr (Mrs) N Gnanavelrajah	
Organizing sports competitions, games and cultural programmes at inter-faculty and inter - university levels	Inter-faculty sports competition held on 28.03.2012. Sports equipment are procured.	Mr K Ganeshanathan & Prof T Velnamby	41,115.68 364,042.00
Joint Celebration of cultural festivals by students of all ethnic communities	Light festival at Vavuniya Campus held on 12.12.2012	Dr T Mangaleswaran	20,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,085,878.68</b>

The University of Jaffna received a grant of Rs.20Mn under EDP and activities commenced recently.

### **Quality & Innovation Grants (QIGs)**

The objective of this sub-component is to make additional resources available to support strategic and innovative plans to enhance the quality of teaching and research. Unlike the UDG, which target universities, the QIG will be accessible to and implemented by, specific study programs and/or departments.

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

Two study programmes of the University of Jaffna, namely Management studies & Commerce (Window One) and Bioscience (Window Two) received grants of Rs. 20Mn and Rs. 25Mn respectively under QIG (Round 1). Agreements were signed recently and activities are expected to commence soon.

### **Human Resource Development (HRD):**

This sub-component has been developed to support human resource development in the higher education sector by assisting the higher education institutes to strengthen the quality of their academic-staff through suitable postgraduate programmes, and all staff through short term training programmes. The main components are:

- MPhil/PhD Training for Universities
- Masters Training for SLIATE ATIs
- Short Term Training

The list of academic staff members of the University of Jaffna pursuing postgraduate courses in various Universities under HRD Grant is given below:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Faculty / Unit</b>	<b>Degree Sought</b>
Ms.N.Karunaharan	Arts	MPhil leading to PhD
Ms.Y.Lingesiya	Management Studies & Commerce	PhD
Mr.J.Robinson	Management Studies & Commerce	PhD
Ms.R.Yogendrarajah	Management Studies & Commerce	PhD
Mr.T.Yoganathan	Medicine	MPhil leading to PhD
Ms.T.Gnanakarunyan	Medicine	MPhil
Mr.A.Thevakaran	Science	PhD
Mr.S.Arumairajan	Science	MPhil leading to PhD
Mr.S. Sabaanath	Sports Science	PhD
Ms.L.Pradheeban	Agriculture	PhD
Dr.(Ms) K.Muruganathan	Medicine	PhD
Dr.S.Kannathan	Medicine	PhD
Ms.S.Sivagurunathan	Arts	MPhil leading to PhD
Dr.(Ms) V.Shanmugarajah	Sidda Medicine	MPhil leading to PhD
Dr.(Ms). T.Thileepan	Sidda Medicine	PhD
Ms.S.Balasingham	Arts	PhD
Ms.J.Nimalan	Applied Science,Vavuniya Campus	PhD
Ms.K.Kalainathan	Business Studies,Vavuniya Campus	PhD

Mr.K.Rathitharan	Arts	PhD
Ms.B.Ganesharajah	Science	PhD
Ms.M.Baheerathan	Arts	MPhil leading to PhD

Short term training programmes held under HRD are given below:

- Training programme on Personality Development conducted by SLIDA from 05-16 November 2012.
- Training programme on Public Speaking and Presentation Skills conducted by NIBM from 15-17 January 2013.