

RMIT-Sri Lanka Research and Development Centre

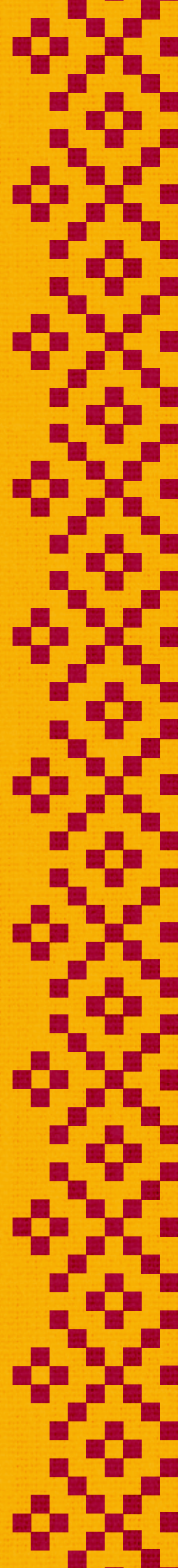
Advancing world-class research and innovation through transformative collaboration between Sri Lanka and Australia

Connect with us for enquiries, collaboration, and updates: slrmit.com



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Impact Focus

RMIT's Futures focus provides a bold framework for shaping the long-term impact of our research. Grounded in global trends, emerging challenges, and opportunities for positive change, the RMIT Futures articulate the outcomes we aspire to achieve through research, innovation, and partnership.

By focusing on six interconnected Futures, RMIT aligns its world-class research with an ambition to create lasting benefits for people, communities, economies, and the environment locally and globally.

Connected

Strengthening digital connections between people, communities, technology, and places to create inclusive and thriving societies.

Futures

Healthier

Improving health and wellbeing through research that enables healthier lives, communities, and environments.

Futures

Secure and Resilient

Building the capacity of people, communities, and systems to anticipate, adapt, and thrive amid change.

Futures

Sustainable

Enabling sustainable transitions that balance environmental integrity, social equity, and economic security for future generations.

Futures

Fairer

Advancing equity, inclusion, and social justice through research that expands opportunity and improves lives for all.

Futures

Productive and Creative

Driving sustainable prosperity through innovation, creativity, enterprise, and new ways of working and creating value.

Futures

About RMIT

RMIT University is a global university of technology, design, and enterprise recognised internationally for industry engagement, applied research excellence, and innovation-driven education. With a diverse community representing more than 100 countries, RMIT delivers impactful research and education through strong collaboration with industry, government, and global partners.

RMIT's multidisciplinary research ecosystem enables researchers, students, and industry partners to work together across engineering,

science, technology, design, business, health, and social sciences to address real-world challenges. Through world-class laboratories, advanced research facilities, and globally connected research networks, RMIT supports innovation with measurable social, environmental, and economic impact.

Located in Melbourne, Australia, consistently recognised as one of the world's most liveable cities, RMIT University provides an inspiring environment shaped by creativity, innovation, diversity, and enterprise.

RMIT at a Glance



104,000+
Students globally



100+
Countries represented



560,000+
Alumni worldwide



24,245
Industry placements (2024)



13,000+
Staff



2,700+
PhD students



\$2 Bn
RMIT Group annual turnover



\$540 M
Annual research expenditure



5,000+
Annual publications



About the RMIT-Sri Lanka R&D Centre

The RMIT-Sri Lanka R&D Centre is a strategic collaborative initiative established between RMIT University and the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka, with leading Sri Lankan universities and industry partners.

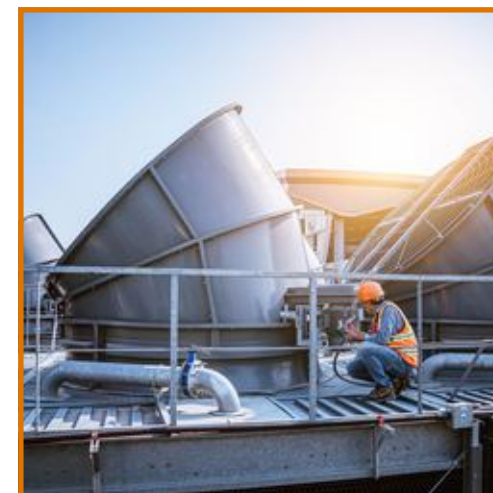
The Centre was established to strengthen research capability, industry collaboration, international research engagement, and innovation-led development. By connecting academia, industry, and government, the Centre creates a globally connected platform for high-impact research and education pathways aligned with national priorities and global sustainability challenges. The Centre supports multidisciplinary research and education across advanced materials, infrastructure resilience, artificial intelligence, sustainability, agriculture, health technologies, policy, and social innovation.

What We Do

The Centre delivers internationally connected research, education, and industry collaboration through three flagship programmes:

Joint PhD Programme

The RMIT-Sri Lanka Cotutelle Joint PhD Programme enables candidates to undertake internationally recognised doctoral research through joint enrolment at RMIT University and Sri Lankan partner universities under UGC Sri Lanka. The programme combines joint supervision, international mobility, access to world-class facilities, and multidisciplinary collaboration to develop globally competitive researchers capable of addressing complex national and global challenges. Candidates typically spend approximately 2.5 years in Sri Lanka and up to 12 months at RMIT University in Melbourne.



Industry Masters Programme

Delivered in collaboration with the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB), Sri Lanka's largest government engineering organisation, this RMIT University Masters by Research programme integrates advanced postgraduate research with real-world industry challenges. Designed for NWSDB employees, the programme combines academic excellence with industry-based application through a unique joint supervision model involving RMIT University, NWSDB, and Sri Lankan partner universities. It supports professional upskilling, industry-integrated research, and innovation.

Education Pathways

The Centre delivers globally connected education pathways designed to enhance student mobility, international exposure, and industry-relevant learning opportunities. A key initiative is the development of a 2 + 2 undergraduate pathway allowing students to complete part of their studies in Sri Lanka before transferring to RMIT University in Australia to complete their internationally recognised degree. The first phase of this initiative is being developed in partnership with the Open University of Sri Lanka, with opportunities for broader collaboration with other Sri Lankan universities in the future.



Vision and Strategic Objectives



Vision

To foster impactful research and innovation through collaborative partnerships that address national development priorities



Mission

To translate RMIT-supported research into sustainable solutions through collaboration with academia, industry, and government



Objectives

- To establish a multidisciplinary research ecosystem that connects STEM, Design, Business, and Social Sciences disciplines to address real-world challenges
- To align research activities with national development priorities in Sri Lanka while contributing to global scientific and technological advancement
- To strengthen collaboration between RMIT University, Sri Lankan partner universities, industry stakeholders, and government bodies for impactful research outcomes
- To build research capacity in Sri Lanka by developing highly skilled researchers through international exposure, joint supervision, and access to advanced research infrastructure at RMIT University

Messages from Leadership



“The establishment of the RMIT-Sri Lanka R&D Centre reflects our shared ambition to advance impact-focused research founded on RMIT’s Futures framework. By connecting complementary expertise and strengthening collaboration among universities, industry and government, the Centre will ensure that the pathways to impact are identified early in our joint research projects to enable translation of knowledge into practice. Outcomes will address shared priorities and contribute to innovation, prosperity, and improved quality of life.”

Distinguished Professor Calum Drummond
Deputy Vice-Chancellor R & I and Vice-President, RMIT University

“We’re proud to initiate the RMIT-Sri Lanka R&D Centre, which will provide benefits across RMIT and Sri Lanka. Building on the Joint PhD programme, industry led Masters by research and course work programmes, the Centre connects diverse disciplines, cultures, education, and industry to develop globally connected researchers and practitioners delivering purposeful outcomes that address real-world needs in Australia, Sri Lanka, and beyond.”

Professor Catherine Itsiopoulos
Deputy Vice-Chancellor STEM College and Vice-President, RMIT University



“The RMIT-Sri Lanka R&D Centre marks an important milestone in the longstanding partnership between RMIT University and Sri Lanka’s higher education sector. The Centre will offer an opportunity for Sri Lankan and Australian partners and community to collaborate in creating transformational impact aligned to RMIT’s noble vision for creating impact in the regions and communities we operate in.”

Distinguished Professor Sujeeva Setunge
Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor R & I STEM College, RMIT University

“The establishment of the RMIT-Sri Lanka R&D Centre represents an important step towards strengthening Sri Lanka’s research and innovation landscape through meaningful international partnerships. The Centre brings together the strengths and expertise of RMIT University and Sri Lanka’s higher education sector, creating new avenues for high-quality research, innovation, knowledge exchange, and industry engagement.”

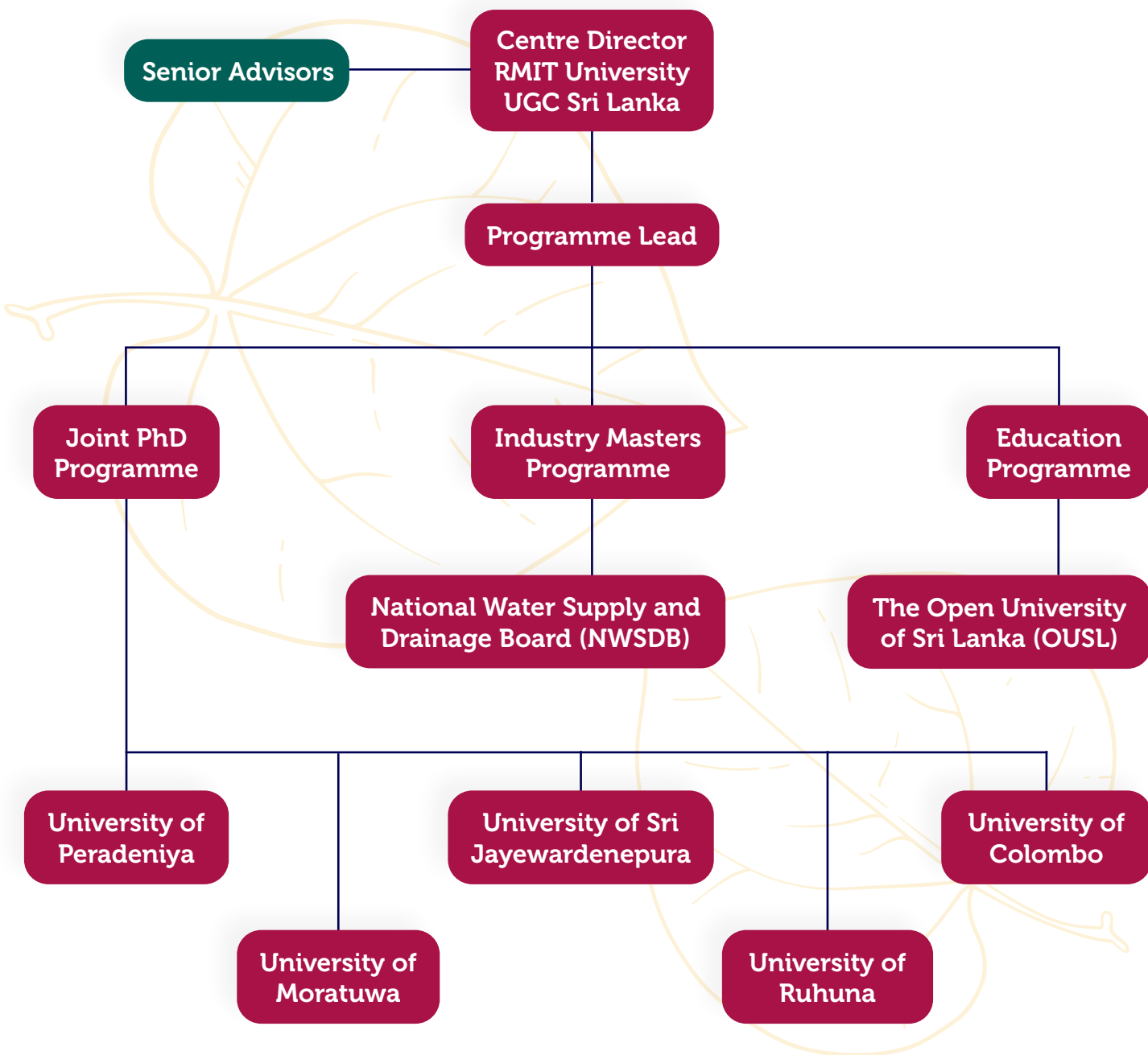
Senior Professor Kapila Seneviratne
Chairman, UGC Sri Lanka



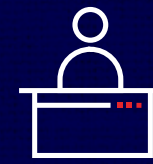
“A key strength of the RMIT-Sri Lanka R&D Centre is its emphasis on industry-engaged research that responds to real-world challenges and addresses issues of mutual importance to Sri Lanka and Australia. By bringing universities, industry, researchers, and other stakeholders together, the Centre has the potential to transform research into practical solutions, promote innovation, and enhance the relevance and impact of university research.”

Senior Professor K.L. Wasantha Kumara
Vice Chairman, UGC Sri Lanka

Leadership and Governance



Executive Committee



Senior Advisors and Centre Directors

- Distinguished Professor Calum Drummond, Deputy Vice-Chancellor R & I and Vice-President, RMIT University (Senior Advisor)
- Professor Catherine Itsiopoulos, Deputy Vice-Chancellor STEM College and Vice-President, RMIT University (Senior Advisor)
- Distinguished Professor Sujeeva Setunge, Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor R & I STEM College, RMIT University (Centre Director)
- Senior Professor Kapila Seneviratne, Chairman, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka (Senior Advisor)
- Senior Professor K.L. Wasantha Kumara, Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka (Centre Director)



Programme Lead

- Dr. Chamila Gunasekara, Senior Lecturer, RMIT University



Programme Coordinators in Sri Lanka

Joint PhD Programme Coordinators

- Professor Lalith Rajapakse, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Panduka Neluwala, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- Senior Professor Thusitha U. Abeytunga, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Rumesh Liyanage, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Kushan Sudheera, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka

Education Programme Coordinator

- Dr. G.M.C.P. Jayawardana, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

Industry Masters Programme Coordinator

- Eng. (Mrs) T.K.N.K. Kumari, National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB), Sri Lanka



Research Overview

The R&D Centre combines world-class expertise, industry partnerships, and innovation to drive sustainable development in Sri Lanka and beyond through six research themes. The following projects showcase the Centre's multidisciplinary research.



Theme 1: Advanced Materials and Circular Manufacturing

1. Antimicrobial herbal-dyed cotton textiles
2. CO₂-capturing textile material
3. Anti-deposition coatings for sewer systems
4. Fire-resistant recycled glass-polymer cladding
5. PET fibre degradation in cement composites
6. Anti-corrosive coatings for sewer systems
7. Geopolymer concrete mix design guideline
8. Fibre-reinforced thermal and acoustic insulation panels
9. Sustainable marine-grade green concrete
10. Rice husk ash in low-carbon binders
11. Geopolymer for road subgrades
12. Pervious concrete for stormwater treatment
13. Waste tyre and steel fibre-reinforced concrete
14. Alkali-activated slag concrete using waste materials
15. Permeable concrete for water-sensitive design
16. Calcined clay concrete for marine use
17. Biochar cement for runoff quality improvement



Theme 2: Sustainable Agriculture, Food Systems, and Bioeconomy

1. Milk protein interactions in tea blends
2. Mycelium-based edible films
3. Sustainable composite cooking oils
4. Climate-resilient agriculture systems
5. Functional malted milk powder development
6. Plant-based dairy stabilisers
7. Resistant starch for low-calorie foods
8. Protein interactions in meat analogues



Theme 3: Smart Infrastructure, Water, and Environmental Resilience

1. Fire impact on modular steel systems
2. Seagrass restoration and blue carbon mapping
3. Cascade dam hazard assessment
4. Flood vulnerability in residential buildings
5. Railway infrastructure monitoring optimisation
6. Coastal pollution outfall design
7. Landslide risk assessment for slopes
8. Prefabricated modular building system
9. Dam breach terrain and hazard modelling
10. Landfill leachate treatment systems
11. Wind protection sacrificial structures
12. Urban flood digital twin systems
13. Rockfill dam seismic analysis
14. Community flood impact assessment
15. Brine management for desalination systems
16. Earthquake effects on buildings
17. Road pavement maintenance prioritisation models

18. Critical infrastructure resilience modelling
19. Flood risk models for industry and commerce
20. Micro-tunnelling in soft soil conditions



Theme 4: Health, Biomedical Technologies, and Human Wellbeing

1. Workforce automation and employee wellbeing
2. Canine influenza and coronaviruses epidemiology
3. Medical image analysis using AI
4. Pharmacist wellbeing and support framework
5. Bovine babesiosis disease modelling
6. Dietary intervention for metabolic health in adults
7. Stroke prevention model
8. Outcomes of hospitalised older patients
9. Dengue risk factors in blood donors
10. Systems biology for stroke care
11. Trace elements in chronic kidney disease



Theme 5: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Digital Innovation, and Industry 4.0

1. AI for cybersecurity education
2. Smart public transport systems
3. Automated vulnerability detection in software
4. AI-based construction waste optimisation platform
5. Battery impedance modelling
6. Digital twins for damage detection
7. Cybersecurity for power grids

8. Extended reality tools for engineering education
9. AI-based structural defect detection
10. Smart mobility frameworks
11. Secure coding behaviour modelling
12. AI in hybrid manufacturing systems
13. Computer vision under domain shift
14. IoT anomaly detection systems
15. AI-integrated BIM systems
16. Predictive asset degradation modelling
17. Geotechnical prediction models using AI
18. Digital transformation analytics
19. AI-enabled digital twins for construction
20. AI-based load monitoring systems for appliances
21. AI-based workplace safety prediction tools
22. AI-based optimisation of construction materials
23. Smart health monitoring machines



Theme 6: Society, Policy, Business, and Sustainable Development

1. CEO Turnover and ESG controversy response
2. Content and language integrated learning
3. Geopolitical risk and corporate sustainability (Gulf-SAARC)
4. Libraries and cultural sustainability
5. Coastal community evacuation decision-making
6. Socio-economic and wellbeing modelling
7. Information gaps in natural disasters
8. Green construction material selection framework
9. Sustainable prefabrication decision support system

Research Facilities

Through our collaborative research programmes, Sri Lankan students and researchers gain access to RMIT University's world-class research facilities, advanced laboratories, and innovative research infrastructure. Supported by expert supervision, Higher Degree by Research (HDR) training and international research collaboration opportunities, these facilities enable cutting-edge research, innovation, and the development of future research leaders.

The collaboration also creates opportunities for industry and government partners to engage in high-impact, multidisciplinary research with international reach. We would like to introduce some of the world-class research facilities and laboratories available through our collaborative research programmes with RMIT University.



RMIT has operated a cleanroom fabrication facility for over 30 years.

Micro Nano Research Facility (MNRF)

MNRF is a 1,000 square metre facility that houses nine laboratories. It brings together diverse, high-quality micro- and nanotechnological research into a single hub. MNRF laboratories have comprehensive facilities for the design, modelling, fabrication, packaging, and characterisation of micro- and nanoscale devices.

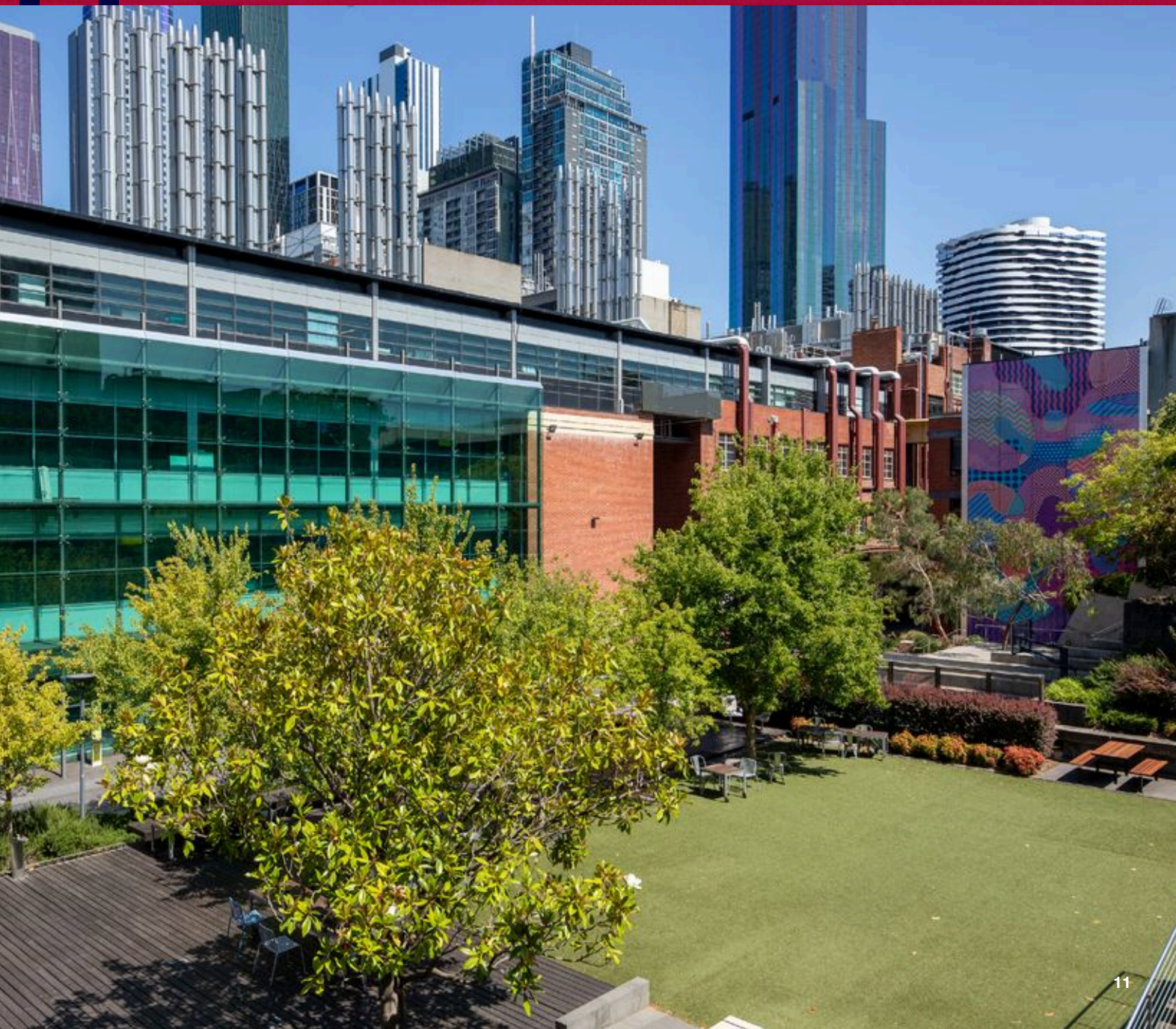
The facility and its advanced equipment are available to researchers outside RMIT at competitive rates. 'High-tech gas-sensing capsules to monitor gut health' is one such research outcome supported by MNRF.



Rheology and Materials Characterisation Laboratory

The Rheology and Materials Characterisation Laboratory is a state-of-the-art facility that provides research, consulting, and education in rheology, processing, and materials science and technology. The facility, through more than 25 instruments, supports the characterisation of industrially relevant materials such as minerals, slurry, sludge, food, and polymers. It also has pilot-scale facilities in polymer processing and multiphase mixing.

The facility supports users in the School of Civil, Environmental and Chemical Engineering, as well as other schools and disciplines within the university, which promotes interdisciplinary research.



RMIT Microscopy and Microanalysis Facility (RMMF)

The RMMF, a centralised facility within the STEM College at RMIT University, is one of the largest multi-disciplinary microscopy and microanalysis facilities in Australia. It houses approximately 15 major instruments, including state-of-the-art electron microscopes, surface analysis, and microanalysis instrumentation.

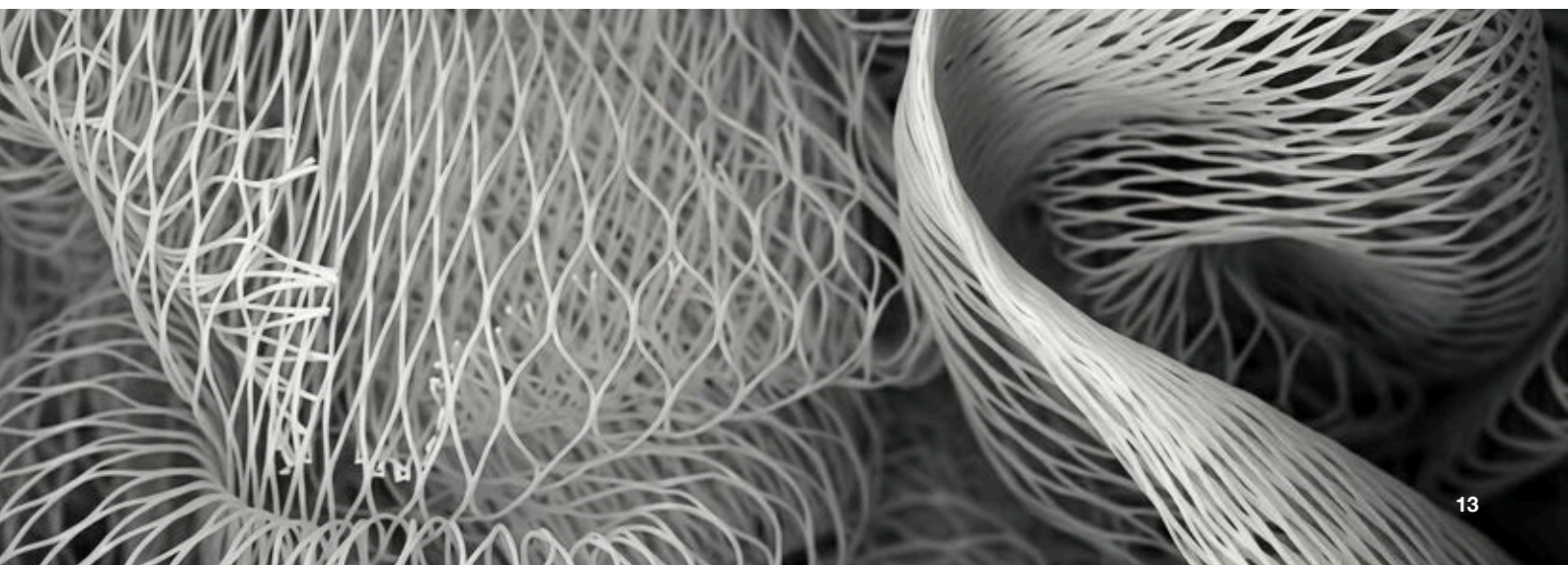
The facility offers imaging, image analysis, element composition, chemical analysis, structural information, and particle analysis. RMMF provides expertise and training to collaborating researchers from RMIT, other universities, government agencies, and industry to solve key problems in science, engineering, and health.



Advanced Manufacturing Precinct

The Advanced Manufacturing Precinct brings design and engineering together, from digital design to digital manufacturing, by housing some of the most advanced manufacturing technologies. With a vision to be the leader in the implementation of the next wave of manufacturing in Australia, the precinct works closely with industries both in Australia and internationally by offering services in additive and subtractive process manufacturing and industrial automation.

Through specialised equipment and experts, the facility has been involved in projects involving laser-made aircraft parts, protection materials for defence and 3D-printed implants.



Food Research and Innovation Centre

The Food Research and Innovation Centre is a world-class \$15 million facility. It helps businesses develop and market nutritious, safe, sustainable, and innovative food products that meet evolving consumer needs. The centre, comprising a commercial kitchen, pilot plant, food product lab, testing suite, and microbiology lab, is renowned for industry collaborations and cross-disciplinary partnerships.

The multidisciplinary research and development capabilities focus on every stage of food production after it leaves the farm while aiming to stimulate innovation and fill the gaps critical to the success of the Australian food industry.



Flash-Fire Laboratory for Advanced Manikin and Material Evaluation (FLAMME)

FLAMME is a state-of-the-art testing facility equipped to assess thermal protection performance of garments. As the only facility of its kind in Australasia, FLAMME conducts precise, responsive, and highly objective assessments of protective garments and related materials when exposed to a simulated flash fire. By using a purpose-built Thermetrics burn injury manikin equipped with 134 temperature sensors, the facility provides:

- On-site testing of personal protective clothing (PPC)
- Product research and development
- Training and education for designers, manufacturers, and end-users of PPC



Academic and Research Excellence



**WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS**



University Ranking
#10 in Australia | **#119** Globally



Sustainability
#95 Globally



Top 50
Globally in
Architecture & Built
Environment



Art & Design
#1 in Australia | **#19** Globally



Communication & Media Studies
#5 in Australia



Library & Information Management
#1 in Australia



Top 100
Globally in
Engineering – Civil & Structural,
Data Science, Materials Science,
Accounting & Finance

Research Portfolio



90
PhD
Projects



24
Completed



35
Ongoing



31
Under
Registration



146
Publications



104
Journal
Publications



42
Conference
Proceedings



10
Commercial/Scaled-up Outcomes



24
Industry Partners

Research Highlights





THEME 1: Advanced Materials and Circular Manufacturing

Project Title: Fire-Resistant Recycled Glass–Polymer Cladding

PhD Researcher: Dr. Thevega Thevakumar

Supervisory panel: Professor Dilan Robert (RMIT University), Professor Everson Kandare (RMIT University), Adjunct Professor Long Shi (RMIT University), Dr. J.A.S.C. Jayasinghe (University of Peradeniya), Professor C.S. Bandara (University of Peradeniya)

Project: The growing demand for external building cladding creates challenges in balancing fire safety, regulatory compliance, and environmental sustainability, while conventional cladding materials are not sustainable. This research develops a sustainable external cladding solution using recycled glass–polymer composites and advanced thermo-mechanical analysis to improve fire resistance, structural performance, and material efficiency. The findings demonstrate the potential of using up to 80% recycled glass to develop fire-resistant and structurally efficient cladding systems, supporting safer and more sustainable building construction. The developed approach has strong future potential for practical implementation in high-rise and modern buildings and wider industry adoption of sustainable cladding technologies.



Technology Readiness Level (TRL): 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Net-zero future and eco-friendly construction materials

Project Title: Geopolymer for Road Subgrades

PhD Researcher: Dr. Nawanjana Maheepala

Supervisory panel: Professor Dilan Robert (RMIT University), Dr. Chamila Gunasekara (RMIT University), Professor M.C.M. Nasvi (University of Peradeniya), Professor L.C. Kurukulasuriya (University of Peradeniya)

Project: Expansive soils in road subgrades undergo swelling and shrinkage, causing pavement distress, premature failure, and high maintenance costs. Conventional Portland cement or lime

stabilisation is environmentally unsustainable due to high carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and durability limitations. This research develops a sustainable geopolymer system using a blended fly ash–slag precursor and rice husk ash-based alkaline silicate solution, integrated with an artificial neural network for mix optimisation. The system improves engineering performance and sustainability while reducing CO₂ emissions and lifecycle costs, offering a scalable, industry-ready solution for future infrastructure.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Net-zero future and eco-friendly construction materials



Project Title: Biochar Cement for Runoff Quality Improvement

PhD Researcher: Dr. Pamodithya Wijeyawardana

Supervisory panel: Associate Professor Biplob Pramanik (RMIT University), Associate Professor David Law (RMIT University), Dr. Chamila Gunasekara (RMIT University), Professor Nadeeshani Nanayakkara (University of Peradeniya), Dr. Anurudda Karunaratna (University of Peradeniya)

Project: Conventional stormwater treatment technologies involve high operational costs and environmental impacts, while agricultural and timber wastes such as paddy husk and sawdust remain underutilised despite their abundance in Sri Lanka. This research develops sustainable biochar and cement-modified biochar composites from these locally available waste materials to remove heavy metals from urban stormwater runoff. The developed materials achieve removal efficiencies for copper, lead, and zinc comparable to commercial activated carbon, demonstrating strong potential for cost-effective stormwater treatment, waste valorisation, and integration into sustainable urban water management systems in the future.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Net-zero future and eco-friendly construction materials



Project Title: Alkali-Activated Slag Concrete Using Waste Materials

PhD Researcher: Dr. Harshani Egodagamage

Supervisory panel: Professor Kate Nguyen (RMIT University), Dr. Thomas Loh (RMIT University), Dr. Sathees Nava (RMIT University), Professor Hiran Yapa (University of Peradeniya), Dr. Samith Buddika (University of Peradeniya)

Project: Conventional Portland cement contributes significantly to CO₂ emissions and energy consumption, creating a need for more sustainable construction materials. This research develops an innovative waste material-blended alkali-activated slag concrete using biochar and recycled EPS to enhance strength, durability, and impact resistance. The findings demonstrate the potential of producing a low-carbon, high-performance concrete with improved energy absorption, making it particularly suitable for infrastructure applications such as road safety barriers. The developed technology presents strong future potential for sustainable construction practices and industry-scale adoption of resilient infrastructure solutions.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Net-zero future and eco-friendly construction materials



Project Title: Fibre-Reinforced Thermal and Acoustic Insulation Panels

PhD Researcher: Pramodya Wijesinghe

Supervisory panel: Dr. Chamila Gunasekara (RMIT University), Associate Professor David Law (RMIT University), Professor Lijing Wang (RMIT University), Professor Gamini Lanarolle (University of Moratuwa), Dr. Hasitha Damruwan (University of Moratuwa)

Project: This research develops sustainable cement mortars using waste textile fibres to address two major global challenges: textile waste management and the demand for low-carbon construction materials. Through laboratory testing, analytical techniques, predictive modelling, and AI, the project evaluated the thermal and acoustic performance of fibre-reinforced mortars, including the first application of elastane fibres in cementitious materials. The findings provide a strong foundation for large-scale adoption of waste textile fibre-reinforced cementitious materials, supporting circular economy principles, low-carbon construction, and the development of sustainable building materials for future infrastructure.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Net-zero future and eco-friendly construction materials



Project Title: Rice Husk Ash in Low-Carbon Binders

PhD Researcher: Dr. Sarah Fernando

Supervisory panel: Associate Professor David Law (RMIT University), Dr. Chamila Gunasekara (RMIT University), Distinguished Professor Sujeewa Setunge (RMIT University), Professor M.C.M. Nasvi (University of Peradeniya), Emeritus Professor Ranjith Dissanayake (University of Peradeniya)

Project: Portland cement production is highly energy and resource-intensive, contributing about 5–8% of global CO₂ emissions and creating a strong need for sustainable alternatives. This research develops alkali-activated binders using blended fly ash and rice husk ash, transforming industrial and agricultural wastes into valuable cement replacement materials. Compared to conventional cement products, the new solution offers lower environmental impacts and material costs while diverting waste from landfills and storage lagoons. The findings support the development of sustainable alkali-activated masonry products and provide a foundation for future optimisation and industry adoption of waste-derived construction materials.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

Partners/Collaborations: Tokyo Cement Lanka PLC

National priority: Net-zero future and eco-friendly construction materials



Project Title: Geopolymer Concrete Mix Design Guideline

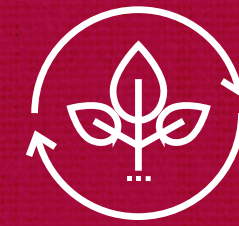
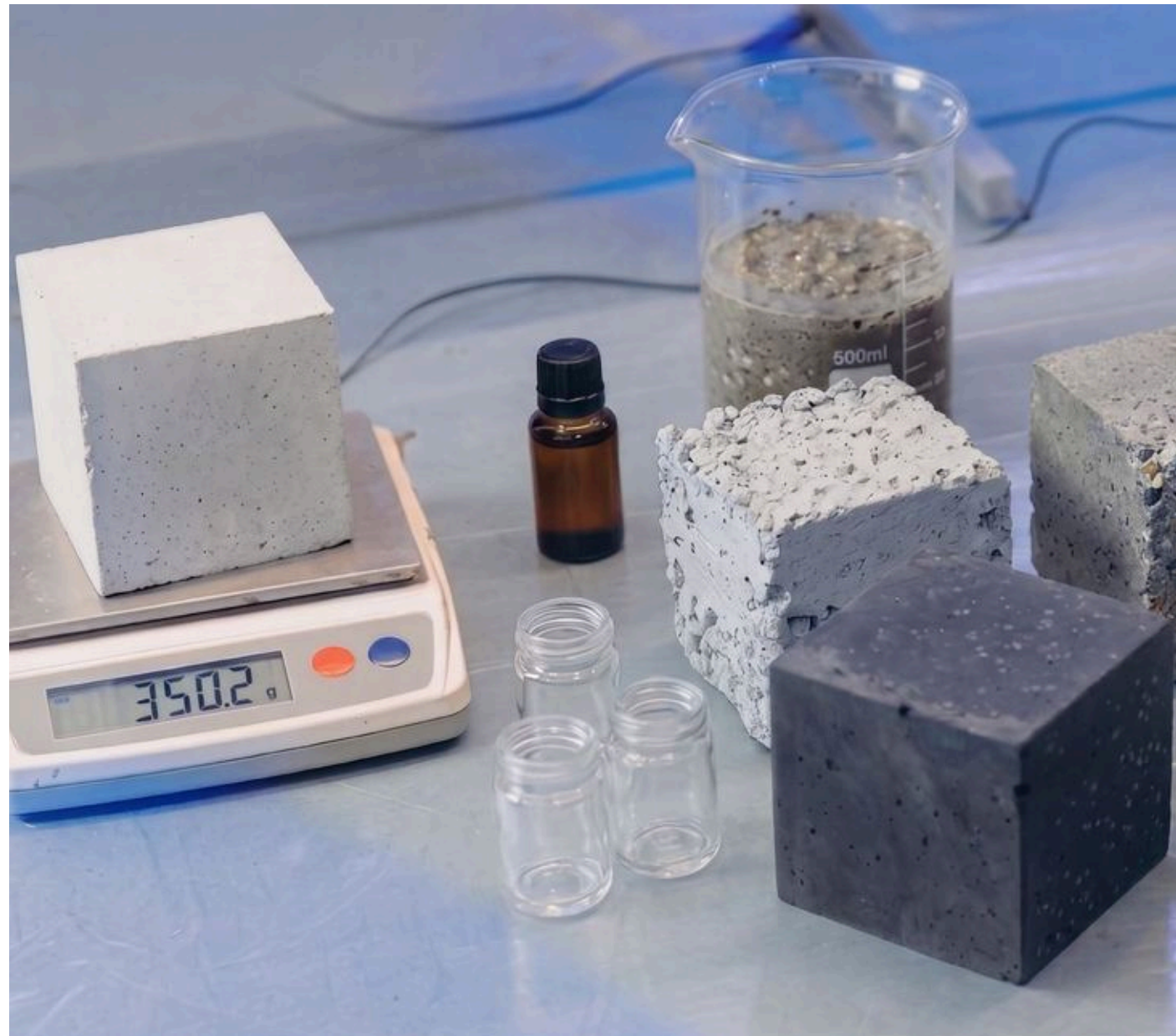
PhD Researcher: Dr. Madushan Rathnayaka

Supervisory panel: Dr. Chamila Gunasekara (RMIT University), Associate Professor David Law (RMIT University), Professor K.K. Wijesundara (University of Peradeniya), Professor Weena Lokuge (University of Southern Queensland)

Project: Large quantities of fly ash from coal power plants are often discarded despite their potential as an alternative cement binder. This research develops a standardised mix design procedure and performance guideline for fly ash-based geopolymer concrete by integrating machine learning models. The framework evaluates how variations in fly ash characteristics influence compressive strength and other mechanical properties, enabling informed mix design for targeted performance. The findings demonstrate highly accurate strength prediction and strong potential for industry adoption and wider use of low-carbon construction materials.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Net-zero future through new construction procedures



THEME 2: Sustainable Agriculture, Food Systems, and Bioeconomy

Project Title: Milk Protein Interactions in Tea Blends

PhD Researcher: Dr. Dilema Wijegunawardhana

Supervisory panel: Professor Jayani Chandrapala (RMIT University), Dr. Mayumi Silva (RMIT University), Dr. Tuyen Truong (RMIT University), Dr. Rumesh Liyanage (University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Dr. Isuru Wijesekara (University of Sri Jayewardenepura)

Project: The growing demand for convenient, shelf-stable, and nutritious beverages has highlighted the need for improved milk–tea powder formulations with enhanced stability and functionality. This research addresses this challenge by investigating how interactions between milk proteins, carbohydrates, fat, and tea polyphenols influence product quality during processing and storage. The study identified optimal ingredient combinations that improved stability, phenolic retention, rehydration, and shelf-life performance while reducing browning and aggregation. Beyond enhancing product quality, the findings support value addition to Sri Lanka's tea industry, providing strong potential for developing functional beverages with increased commercial and export opportunities.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Advancing human health and nutrition



Project Title: Functional Malted Milk Powder Development

PhD Researcher: Dr. Chamodi Gunathunga

Supervisory panel: Professor Jayani Chandrapala (RMIT University), Professor Charles Brennan (RMIT University), Dr. Tuyen Truong (RMIT University), Professor R.A.U.J. Marapana (University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Professor K.W.M.A. Jayasinghe (University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Dr. G.S.A. Senanayake (University of Sri Jayewardenepura)

Project: Malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies remain important global nutrition challenges, highlighting the need for affordable, nutrient-dense functional foods. This research develops a bioactive compound-enriched malted milk powder using germinated cereals and pulses combined with zinc fortification. The study shows improved availability of polyphenols, flavonoids, amino acids, and minerals, particularly in zinc-fortified formulations. The findings demonstrate a practical pathway for developing functional foods that support improved nutrition, address micronutrient deficiencies, and offer strong potential for future commercial food innovation.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Advancing human health and nutrition



Project Title: Resistant Starch for Low-Calorie Foods

PhD Researcher: Dr. Sankha Gankandage

Supervisory panel: Professor Jayani Chandrapala (RMIT University), Professor Charles Brennan (RMIT University), Dr. Tuyen Truong (RMIT University), Professor S.B. Navaratne (University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Senior Professor Indira Wickramasinghe (University of Sri Jayewardenepura)

Project: The increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disorders is closely linked to the consumption of highly digestible carbohydrate-rich foods. This research addresses the need for healthier functional foods by identifying resistant starch (RS)-rich plant sources and incorporating them into low-fat Greek yoghurt formulations. The study demonstrates that RS-rich flours improved yoghurt texture, viscosity, and stability, while enhancing probiotic survival during digestion when used at an optimal 1% level. Beyond supporting digestive health through symbiotic functionality, these findings highlight the commercial potential of RS-based ingredients for developing innovative, low-glycaemic functional foods that promote long-term health and wellbeing.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Advancing human health and nutrition



Project Title: Protein Interactions in Meat Analogues

PhD Researcher: Dr. Malsha Dinali

Supervisory panel: Professor Jayani Chandrapala (RMIT University), Dr. Mayumi Silva (RMIT University), Professor Benu Adhikari (RMIT University), Dr. Lis Newman (RMIT University), Dr. Rumesh Liyanage (University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Dr. Isuru Wijesekara (University of Sri Jayewardenepura)

Project: Growing concerns over human health, environmental sustainability, and dependence on imported protein sources have increased the demand for nutritious plant-based meat alternatives. This research addresses these challenges by evaluating underutilised Sri Lankan legumes, particularly mung bean and cowpea, as sustainable protein sources for plant-based meat products. The study successfully developed textured vegetable proteins and meat analogue patties with desirable nutritional, structural, and cooking properties comparable to commercial products. Beyond supporting food security, value addition, and healthier dietary choices, the findings provide a pathway for reducing reliance on imported soy and offer strong potential for future commercialisation of locally sourced sustainable protein foods.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Advancing human health and nutrition





THEME 3: Smart Infrastructure, Water, and Environmental Resilience

Project Title: Influence of Cavity Fires on Cold-Formed Steel Modular Construction Systems

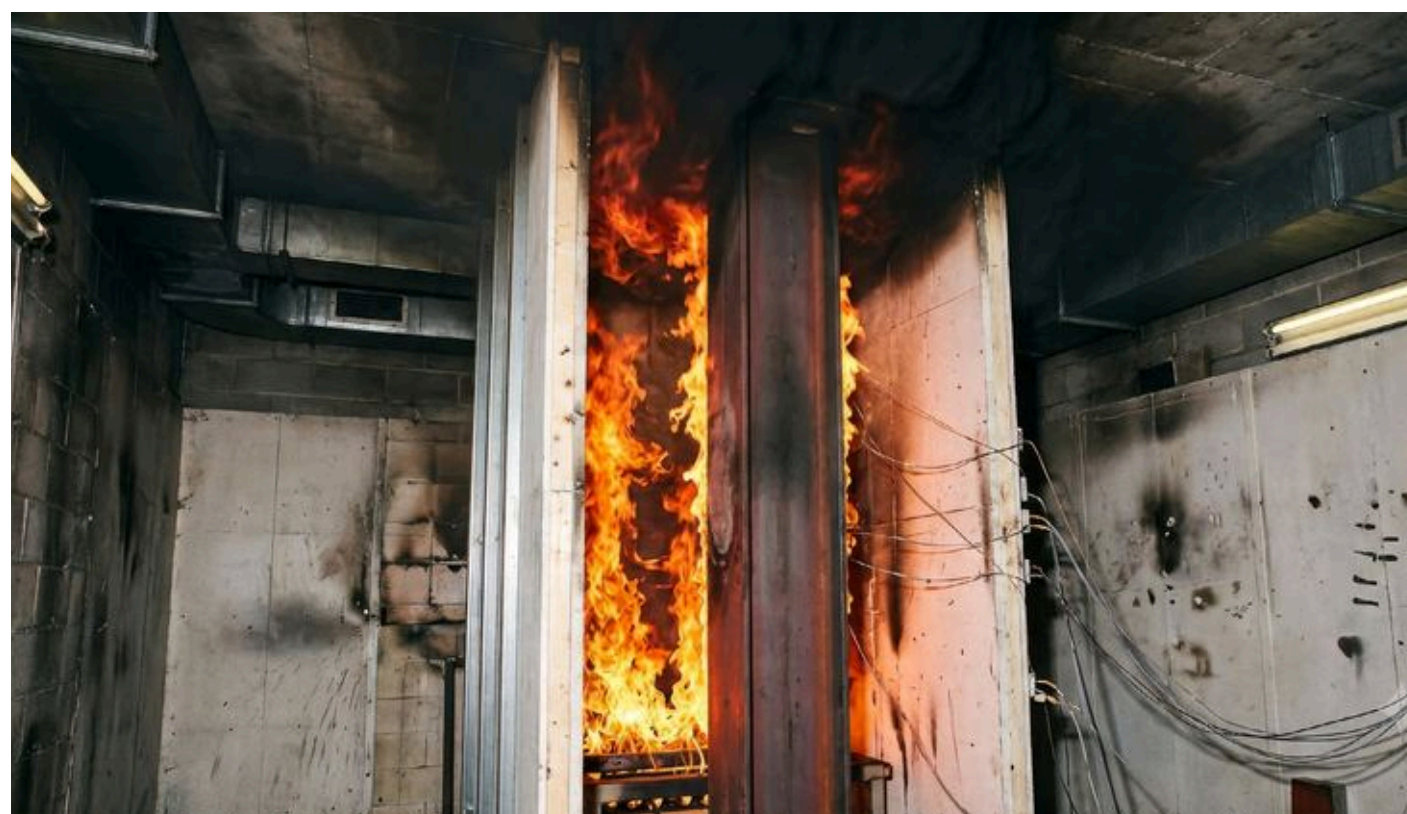
PhD Researcher: Dr. Rajeendra Godakandage

Supervisory panel: Professor Kate Nguyen (RMIT University), Dr. Satheeskumar Navaratnam (RMIT University), Professor Kumari Gamage (University of Moratuwa), Dr. Pasindu Weerasinghe (University of Moratuwa)

Project: Steel modular buildings are increasingly used worldwide, but hidden intermodular cavities can create pathways for rapid fire and smoke spread, posing risks to occupant safety and structural stability. This research investigates the fire behaviour of narrow cavity spaces and their impact on cold-formed steel columns through experimental testing and advanced numerical modelling. The study identifies critical cavity widths, quantifies their effects on fire spread and structural performance, and evaluates practical fire protection solutions such as plasterboard lining. The findings provide evidence-based design recommendations to improve fire resistance, support safer modular building design, and inform future building codes, regulations, and fire safety standards for the construction industry.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Advanced construction procedures for a secure and resilient nation



Project Title: Cascade Dam Hazard Assessment

PhD Researcher: Dr. Oshini Peramuna

Supervisory panel: Associate Professor Srikanth Venkatesan (RMIT University), Dr. Saman De Silva (RMIT University), Dr. N.G.P.B. Neluwala (University of Peradeniya), Professor K.K. Wijesundara (University of Peradeniya)

Project: Cascade dam systems are vital for water supply, hydropower, and flood control, but failures during earthquakes or extreme rainfall can have severe downstream impacts. This research develops an integrated framework using advanced terrain modelling, dam breach analysis, and flood simulation to assess and manage these risks. The study delivers new dam breach parameters, improves flood prediction accuracy, and generates probabilistic flood risk maps for Sri Lanka's Mahaweli cascade system. The framework has strong potential for adoption by water authorities and disaster management agencies to strengthen resilience against future natural hazards.

TRL: 3–4 proof of concept established: technology validated

Partners/collaborations: Mahaweli Authority, Sri Lanka; Irrigation Department, Sri Lanka

National priority: Climate risk assessment and disaster resilience



Project Title: Prefabricated Modular Building System

PhD Researcher: Dr. Thisari Munmulla

Supervisory panel: Dr. Satheeskumar Navaratnam (RMIT University), Professor Guomin (Kevin) Zhang (RMIT University), Dr. Hasitha Damruwan (University of Moratuwa), Professor Thishan Jayasinghe (University of Moratuwa)

Project: Prefabricated volumetric modular buildings offer faster and more sustainable construction, but their performance depends strongly on intermodular connections that transfer loads between modules. Existing connection systems often face challenges in installation, cost, and structural efficiency. This research develops a new semi-interlocking bolted connection

system to improve constructability and structural integrity. The proposed system improves ease of assembly while maintaining strength and stiffness. The findings provide practical design guidance for safer, more efficient modular buildings and support wider adoption of modular construction in high-rise applications.

TRL: 3–4 proof of concept established: technology validated

National priority: Advanced construction procedures for a secure and resilient nation



Project Title: Critical Infrastructure Resilience Modelling

PhD Researcher: Dr. Bawantha Rathnayaka

Supervisory panel: Professor Dilan Robert (RMIT University), Distinguished Professor Sujeewa Setunge (RMIT University), Dr. Varuna Adikariwattage (University of Moratuwa), Dr. Chandana Siriwardana (Massey University), Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga (Loughborough University)

Project: Critical infrastructures such as water, electricity, and transport systems are increasingly vulnerable to cascading failures driven by disasters and climate change, largely due to complex interdependencies that are not well captured in traditional assessment methods. This research develops a novel resilience assessment and optimisation framework that integrates Dynamic Bayesian Networks and machine learning to model system interdependencies, predict resilience, and support decision-making. This enables improved planning, risk mitigation, and investment prioritisation for resilient infrastructure systems. In the future, the framework can be extended to real-time decision-support tools for smart and climate-resilient cities.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Resilient infrastructure through structural health monitoring



Project Title: Landfill Leachate Treatment Systems

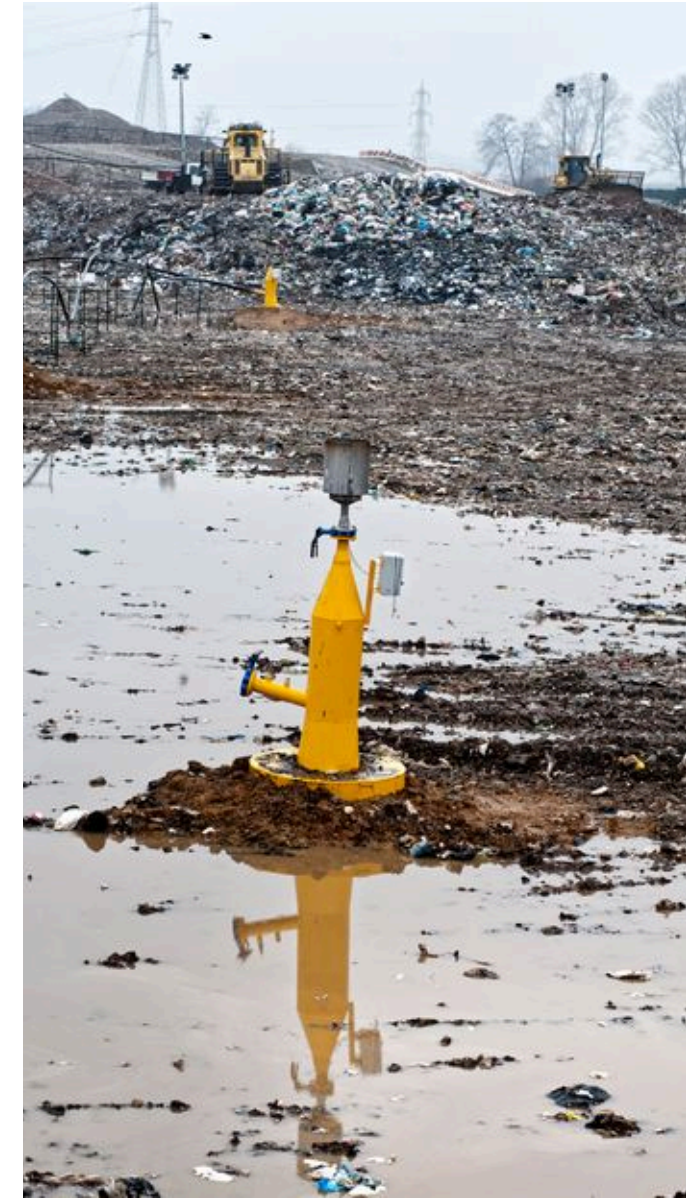
PhD Researcher: Dr. Lahiru Kosala

Supervisory panel: Professor Veeriah Jegatheesan (RMIT University), Dr. Maazuza Othman (RMIT University), Professor Shameen Jinadasa (University of Peradeniya), Professor Gemunu Herath (University of Peradeniya), Professor Nadeeshani Nanayakkara (University of Peradeniya)

Project: Landfill leachate from municipal solid waste disposal sites in Sri Lanka poses a major environmental challenge due to high pollutant loads and the risk of contaminating groundwater and surface water, particularly under open dumping practices common in tropical regions. This research investigates membrane bioreactor systems for effective leachate treatment, focusing on different reactor configurations and operating conditions to improve treatment efficiency. It also develops a mathematical modelling framework to simulate and optimise system performance under Sri Lankan conditions. The study identifies optimal operating parameters and demonstrates strong pollutant removal capabilities for mature leachate with the potential to guide future full-scale treatment systems.

TRL: 3–4 proof of concept established: technology validated

National priority: Urban waste management for a net-zero future



Project Title: Rockfill Dam Seismic Analysis

PhD Researcher: Dr. Sachintha Tennekoon

Supervisory panel: Associate Professor Srikanth Venkatesan (RMIT University), Dr. Saman De Silva (RMIT University), Professor K.K. Wijesundara (University of Peradeniya), Emeritus Professor Ranjith Dissanayake (University of Peradeniya)

Project: Concrete-faced rockfill dams are critical infrastructure assets, and their failure during extreme events can lead to severe economic, environmental, and social consequences. This research develops an advanced finite element modelling framework to improve the accuracy of dam failure prediction by incorporating realistic dam deformations and time-dependent material behaviour. Using machine learning and optimisation techniques, the study establishes reliable methods for estimating rockfill material properties and identifying potential failure zones under seismic loading. The outcomes enhance dam safety assessments, support more informed risk management and maintenance decisions, and provide a foundation for future digital and data-driven approaches to dam design, monitoring, and resilience planning.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established
Partners/collaborations: Mahaweli Authority, Sri Lanka
National priority: Climate risk assessment and disaster resilience



Project Title: Railway Infrastructure Monitoring Optimisation

PhD Researcher: Dr. Udaya Sathya
Supervisory panel: Dr. Mojtaba Mahmoodian (RMIT University), Dr. Nader Naderpajouh (RMIT University), Professor C.S. Bandara (University of Peradeniya), Emeritus Professor Ranjith Dissanayake (University of Peradeniya)



Project: Railway infrastructure systems, particularly tree-topology networks like Sri Lanka Railways, are highly vulnerable to natural hazards such as rainfall-induced landslides and long-term deterioration, and limited historical data make resilience assessment challenging. This research develops an integrated framework combining fragility modelling, Markov-based deterioration analysis, image-based condition monitoring, and an optimisation-driven decision-support system. The solution enables accurate vulnerability prediction and efficient data-driven maintenance and restoration planning. Key benefits include reduced restoration time, lower costs, improved service reliability, and better prioritisation of railway assets. In the future, the framework can be extended to real-time monitoring and AI-enabled smart railway resilience management systems.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established
Partners/collaborations: Sri Lanka Railways, National Building Research Institute, Sri Lanka, and Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka
National priority: Resilient infrastructure through structural health monitoring

Project Title: Landslide Risk Assessment for Slopes

PhD Researcher: Dr. Milinda Amarasinghe
Supervisory panel: Professor Dilan Robert (RMIT University), Professor Annan Zhou (RMIT University), Emeritus Professor S.A.S. Kulathilaka (University of Moratuwa), Dr. H.A.G. Jayathissa (University of Moratuwa)

Project: Rainfall-induced landslides are a major natural hazard in Sri Lanka, particularly in steep and highly populated regions, where they cause significant loss of life, infrastructure damage, and disruption to communities. This research develops an integrated geotechnical and data-driven framework for landslide hazard assessment. It focuses on predicting landslide susceptibility, failure probability, and runout behaviour under varying rainfall conditions. The study enhances the understanding of slope response in tropical environments and improves the accuracy of regional-scale hazard prediction. It ultimately supports safer land-use planning, infrastructure development, and disaster risk reduction,



with future potential for integration into real-time early warning and decision-support systems.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

Partners/collaborations: National Building Research Institute, Sri Lanka

National priority: Climate risk assessment and disaster resilience

Project Title: Road Pavement Maintenance Prioritisation Model

PhD Researcher: Dr. Nuwani Jayakody

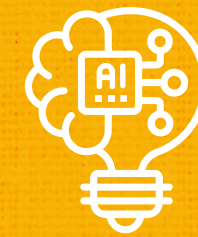
Supervisory panel: Professor Dilan Robert (RMIT University), Dr. Chamila Gunasekara (RMIT University), Professor Filippo Giustozzi (RMIT University), Dr. S.K. Navaratnarajah (University of Peradeniya), Professor M.C.M. Nasvi (University of Peradeniya), Professor L.C. Kurukulasuriya (University of Peradeniya)

Project: Roads and water pipes are critical infrastructure assets, yet they are often managed separately, leading to repeated maintenance works, inefficient use of limited budgets, and increased long-term costs. This research develops an integrated prioritisation and fund allocation framework that considers road pavements and water pipes together when planning maintenance activities. The approach improves infrastructure performance, reduces service disruptions, supports sustainable asset management, and provides a practical decision-support tool for local authorities. The framework has strong potential for wider adoption across infrastructure sectors and future smart asset management systems.

TRL: 3–4 proof of concept established: technology validated

Partners/collaborations: Road Development Authority (Sri Lanka), National Water Supply and Drainage Board (Sri Lanka)

National priority: Resilient infrastructure through structural health monitoring



THEME 5: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Digital Innovation, and Industry 4.0

Project Title: AI-Based Structural Defect Detection

PhD Researcher: Dr. Shamendra Egodawela

Supervisory panel: Dr. Mojtaba Mahmoodian (RMIT University), Dr. Amirali Gostar (RMIT University), Dr. Samith Buddika (University of Peradeniya), Dr. Nalin Harischandra (University of Peradeniya), Dr. Dammika Abeykoon (University of Peradeniya)

Project: The early detection of structural defects such as corrosion and cracks is essential for preventing infrastructure failures, reducing maintenance costs, and improving public safety. This research addressed the limitations of conventional inspection methods by developing advanced imaging-based, non-contact techniques for structural health monitoring. The study integrated multi-spectral imaging, terahertz imaging, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle-based deep learning approaches to detect, classify, and quantify defects with improved accuracy and efficiency. Beyond enhancing infrastructure inspection and maintenance practices, the findings provide a scalable framework for real-time asset monitoring, disaster risk reduction, and the future deployment of intelligent inspection systems across critical infrastructure sectors.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Smart, resilient, and energy-efficient urban environments



Project Title: Predictive Asset Degradation Modelling

PhD Researcher: Dr. Vajira Wickramasinghe

Supervisory panel: Distinguished Professor Sujeewa Setunge (RMIT University), Professor Dilan Robert (RMIT University), Emeritus Professor Priyan Dias (University of Moratuwa), Professor Chinthaka Mallikarachchi (University of Moratuwa)

Project: Ageing building assets and limited maintenance budgets present significant challenges for asset owners, often leading to costly repairs and service disruptions. This research addressed these challenges by developing advanced predictive maintenance models that improve the reliability of building degradation forecasting. Using both engineering-based condition assessments and a novel monetary approach, the study introduced innovative tools for predicting asset deterioration, estimating maintenance needs, and prioritising investments. The findings support more effective asset management, reduced lifecycle costs, and improved maintenance planning. Beyond infrastructure management, the research offers strong potential for adoption by local governments, facility managers, and asset-intensive industries worldwide.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Smart, resilient, and energy-efficient urban environments



Project Title: Battery Impedance Modelling

PhD Researcher: Dr. Akila Eranda Jayasinghe

Supervisory panel: Dr. Nuwantha Fernando (RMIT University), Professor Liuping Wang (RMIT University), Senior Professor Sisil Kumarawadu (University of Moratuwa), Professor J.P. Karunadasa (University of Moratuwa)

Project: This research addresses the growing need for reliable lithium-ion battery health assessment to support the widespread adoption of electric vehicles and renewable energy systems. Existing approaches often struggle to accurately predict battery degradation under realistic dynamic operating conditions, limiting battery lifespan estimation and efficient energy management. To address these challenges, the research developed a comprehensive framework integrating physics-based electrochemical modelling, impedance analysis, dynamic cycle-counting, and semi-empirical ageing models to improve state-of-health assessment and degradation prediction. The proposed framework enables more accurate battery diagnostics, remaining useful life prediction, and ageing evaluation under real-world operating conditions, supporting battery management systems for electric vehicles, renewable energy storage, and hybrid energy storage applications. This research provides a foundation for the development of intelligent battery management technologies towards sustainable electrification and renewable energy systems.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Smart, resilient, and energy-efficient urban environments





THEME 6: Society, Policy, Business, and Sustainable Development

Project Title: Sustainable Prefabrication Decision Support System

PhD Researcher: Dr. Janappriya Lakmal

Supervisory panel: Professor Guomin (Kevin) Zhang (RMIT University), Associate Professor Malindu Sandanayake (RMIT University), Dr. Asela K. Kulatunga (University of Peradeniya), Dr. J.A.S.C. Jayasinghe (University of Peradeniya)

Project: Prefabricated construction offers significant potential for improving sustainability in the built environment, but its adoption and performance vary across developed and developing contexts due to multiple technical, economic, and institutional barriers. This research addresses these challenges by developing a life cycle-based sustainability evaluation and decision support framework for prefabricated construction in Sri Lanka and Australia. The study integrates environmental, economic, and social indicators aligned with Sustainable Development Goals and identifies key barriers, drivers, and improvement strategies. A validated knowledge-based decision tool was developed to support stakeholder decision-making with a strong potential for future application in digital construction management and policy development.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

National priority: Building a sustainable future through new construction procedures



Project Title: Green Construction Material Selection Framework

PhD Researcher: Ashani Fernando

Supervisory panel: Dr. Chamila Gunasekara (RMIT University), Professor Guomin (Kevin) Zhang (RMIT University), Associate Professor David Law (RMIT University), Professor Kumari Gamage (University of Moratuwa), Dr. C.S.A. Siriwardana (Massey University)

Project: High carbon emissions from cement production, combined with the absence of clear sustainability criteria and decision-making tools for material selection, create significant challenges for sustainable construction practices. This research addresses this gap by developing a sustainability assessment framework and a preliminary web-based decision tool for evaluating concrete mixes. The study integrates environmental, economic, and social indicators using life cycle assessment, cost analysis, and stakeholder input. Results show that blended cements generally outperform conventional Portland cement (CEM I) in sustainability performance. The framework supports informed, balanced decision-making and promotes wider adoption of sustainable cement alternatives in the construction industry.

TRL: 2–3 applied research: proof of concept established

Partners/collaborations: Siam City Cement (Lanka) Pvt Ltd (INSEE)

National priority: Building a sustainable future through new construction procedures



Researcher Experiences



Dr. Sachintha Tennekoon

“This collaborative research project between the University of Peradeniya and RMIT University provided valuable opportunities to work on real-world dam engineering projects with the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka, benefiting from the expertise of researchers at both institutions. The experience strengthened my research, technical, and professional skills and contributed to my career development. The knowledge gained through this collaboration has supported my current role as a geotechnical engineer working on mining dam design projects.”

Dr. Madushan Rathnayaka

“Working on this collaborative PhD project between RMIT University and the University of Peradeniya has been highly enriching and academically rewarding. The collaboration strengthened my technical expertise in civil engineering, materials science, and machine learning, as well as enhancing my communication, project management, and academic writing skills. Exposure to both Australian and Sri Lankan research environments also improved my interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research experience, supporting my career development as a civil engineer.”



Dr. Thevega Thevakumar

“Working with supervisors and researchers from both the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and RMIT University provided me with the opportunity to learn from different research approaches, cultures, and academic backgrounds. The collaboration strengthened my technical knowledge, research, communication, and teamwork skills, while also helping me adapt to different working environments and cultural settings, contributing positively to my career development as a graduate facade engineer.”

Dr. Nuwani Jayakody

“This joint PhD project was a great learning experience. I received valuable support from supervisors at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and RMIT University. I also worked with industry partners, gaining practical knowledge and real-world experience. The project helped me build my research, technical, and communication skills; broaden my international perspective; and played an important role in helping me secure my current role as an asset officer in local government.”



Pramodya Wijesinghe

“Undertaking my joint PhD through the collaborative research environments of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, and RMIT University is a rewarding experience. As a Probationary Lecturer at the Open University of Sri Lanka, this joint PhD programme expands my international research experience, enhances my teaching and research capabilities, and equips me to make meaningful contributions to higher education and research in Sri Lanka.”



Dr. Akila Eranda Jayasinghe

“The joint PhD programme provides me with the unique opportunity to work across Sri Lankan and Australian research environments, offering invaluable international research exposure and access to diverse academic networks. This collaboration broadens my research perspective, strengthens my technical and professional skills, and enhances my ability to work in multidisciplinary teams. Building on my role as a Lecturer in the Department of Engineering Technology at the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, this programme supports my academic career and equips me to contribute to teaching, research, and innovation while serving my country.”

Dr. Nawanjana Maheepala

“Working on this collaborative research project between the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and RMIT University provided me with the opportunity to learn from supervisors with diverse expertise while gaining access to advanced laboratory facilities and broader analytical capabilities at RMIT. The experience strengthened my confidence, adaptability, communication, and interdisciplinary research skills, while supporting my continued professional growth as a Vice-Chancellor’s Research Fellow at RMIT University in geotechnical engineering and data-driven modelling.”



Dr. Lahiru Kosala

“The joint PhD collaboration between RMIT University and the University of Peradeniya strengthened my research capacity through close supervision, laboratory access, and multidisciplinary teamwork. It enhanced my expertise in environmental engineering, modelling, and scientific writing, as well as international research exposure. The experience significantly supported my professional growth as an Assistant Professor at the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology.”



Dr. Dilema Wijegunawardhana

“RMIT University and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura’s collaborative joint PhD programme provided valuable experience working with researchers and international students, with access to world-class facilities at RMIT University. The programme strengthened my practical research and laboratory expertise and enhanced my teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. These experiences have significantly contributed to my academic growth as a research assistant in the Department of Food Technology and Nutrition at RMIT University.”



Dr. Janappriya Lakmal

“Working on this collaborative research project between the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and RMIT University provided valuable exposure to Sri Lankan and Australian construction contexts, involving engagement with academics, industry practitioners, and real prefabricated construction case studies. It strengthened my skills and enhanced my research capacity, academic writing, and international research experience as a project researcher in the School of PCPM at RMIT University.”



Our Partners

Engage with our R&D Centre to collaborate, innovate and, create real-world impact. We work closely with government and industry partners to transform ideas into impactful solutions that deliver lasting value and drive meaningful change by:

- Co-developing cutting-edge research and innovation
- Building strong, strategic industry partnerships
- Accessing global expertise and state-of-the-art facilities
- Translating research into practical, real-world solutions
- Supporting the scale-up and commercialisation of innovative ideas

Government Partners



Road Development Authority



National Water Supply and Drainage Board



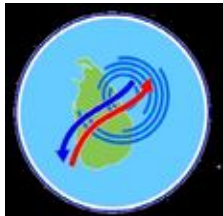
Mahaweli Authority



Lanka Hydraulic Institute



Sri Lanka Railways



Department of Meteorology



Irrigation Department



National Building Research Institute



Disaster Management Centre



Colombo Municipal Council



Industrial Technology Institute

Industry Partners



Tokyo Cement Company (Lanka) PLC



Sika Lanka



DSI Samson Group



Teejay Lanka PLC



UltraTech Cement Lanka



Brandix Lanka



ELS Group



Trischel Fabric (Private) Limited



Kalhari Group of Companies



Access Engineering PLC



Siam City Cement (Lanka) Limited (INSEE Cement)



Millennium Concrete Technologies



SMS Holdings

Industry Reflections



Dr. Dinush Wimalachandra

General Manager—Product Solutions, Research and Development, Innovation, Brandix Lanka Limited, Sri Lanka

“Brandix’s joint PhD partnership with RMIT has strengthened our innovation capability, connecting academic rigour with industry application in sustainable textiles. This collaboration accelerates our R&D pipeline while building deep technical expertise within our team. Such university–industry partnerships are vital for translating research into real-world impact and advancing Sri Lanka’s competitiveness globally.”

Dr. Sujithra Weragoda

Specialist—Water Treatment, National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB), Sri Lanka

“NWSDB’s joint PhD partnership with RMIT University is driving pioneering solutions for sustainable brine management from reverse osmosis systems. By integrating internationally recognised research excellence with pressing industry challenges, this collaboration strengthens technical capacity, fosters innovation, and delivers transformative outcomes for Sri Lanka’s drinking water sector.”



Mr. Nandana Amunuthuduwa

Director—Industrial Sales, Building Materials and Concrete, Siam City Cement (Lanka) Limited, Sri Lanka

“INSEE’s collaboration with RMIT through the Joint PhD Programme has been truly transformative. RMIT’s resource persons have enriched our industry knowledge-sharing sessions, while INSEE contributes real-world industry challenges that inspire meaningful research. This cross-country exchange of experience strengthens our shared mission of elevating the capability of Sri Lanka’s construction industry.”

Dr. H. A. G. Jayathissa

Director General (Acting)/Director, Landslide Research & Risk Management Division, National Building Research Institute (NBRI), Sri Lanka

“Our joint PhD collaboration with RMIT University and the University of Moratuwa has strengthened our research and innovation capabilities in landslide risk management in Sri Lanka. By combining internationally recognised academic expertise with NBRI’s practical experience, this partnership has enhanced our technical knowledge, expanded our research capacity, and supported the development of practical solutions that contribute to disaster risk reduction and community resilience.”



Dr. M.G.M.U. Ismail

Director—Research and Development, Tokyo Cement Company (Lanka) PLC, Sri Lanka

“Tokyo Cement’s joint PhD partnership with RMIT University has strengthened our research and innovation capabilities by combining academic excellence with industry-driven challenges. This collaboration supports the development of sustainable construction materials, enhances our technical expertise, and enables the translation of research into practical solutions that contribute to the advancement of Sri Lanka’s construction sector.”



Let’s Shape the Future Together!

Partner with the RMIT-Sri Lanka R&D Centre to shape the future of innovation, sustainability, advanced research, and industry transformation in Sri Lanka and the Asia-Pacific region. We invite government agencies, industry leaders, development organisations, researchers, investors, and students to collaborate in building globally connected solutions that create measurable national and international impact.

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