

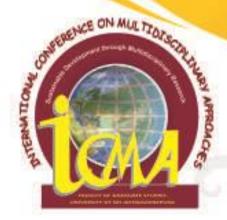




# 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Multidisciplinary Approaches - 2017

"Sustainable Development through Multidisciplinary Research"

## **PROCEEDINGS**



#### JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

## International Conference on Multidisciplinary Approaches - 2017

"Sustainable Development through Multidisciplinary Research"

## **Conference Proceedings**

20th to 22nd September 2017

Faculty of Graduate Studies
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

#### Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

Proceedings of the  $4^{\text{th}}$  International Conference on Multidisciplinary Approaches – 2017

Faculty of Graduate Studies University f Sri Jayewardenepura Nugegoda Sri Lanka

208 Pages

ISSN: 2386 - 1509

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Published by: Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

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### **Contents**

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR v
MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR vi
ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY & PHYSICAL SCIENCES
POLICIES ALIGNED BUSINESS RULE FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICE SOLUTIONS
MoO <sub>3</sub> /Au BACK CONTACT FOR ELECTRODEPOSITED CdS/CdTe SOLAR CELLS
CAPABILITY OF USING ORE MAGNETITE DIRECTLY AS CATHODE MATERIAL FOR SODIUM-ION RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES4
A NEW COSMOLOGICAL MODEL INCLUDING INFLATION, DECELERATION, ACCELERATION AND DECELERATION AGAIN
A NEW UPPER MATRIX BOUND FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE DISCRETE ALGEBRAIC RICCATI EQUATION
APPLICATION OF SURVIVAL ANALYSIS FOR LOAN DATA7
LOOSELY-COUPLED SYSTEM DESIGN FOR MODERN HOME AUTOMATION SYSTEMS
PEER-TO-PEER MOBILE COLLABORATION PLATFORM FOR REAL TIME VISUALIZATION OF MEDICAL IMAGE
MATHEMATICAL MODELLING AND SIMULATION OF THE TEMPERATURE OF SESAME OIL EXTRACTED IN SEKKU - A TRADITIONAL OIL EXTRACTION TECHNOLOGY
MODELLING, CONTROLLING AND SIMULATION OF A WIND TURBINE DRIVE TRAIN IN 'SimulationX' PLATFORM
FORECASTING MONTHLY AVERAGE PEPPER RETAIL PRICES USING A TRADITIONAL TIME SERIES MODEL AND AN ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK MODEL

OPTIMIZATION OF RIDE COMFORT	13
CONTEMPORARY AND COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CUSTOMS AND	
BELIEFS IN HOUSE CONSTRUCTION	14
SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF A NAPHTHALENE-DERIVATIZ	ZED
LIGAND AND ITS RHENIUM TRICARBONYL COMPLEX TOWARDS	
FLUORESCENT IMAGING	15
AN EXTENSION OF GOLDBACH'S CONJECTURE	16
VOICE AND GESTURAL CONTROL OF HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES USING	
KINECT MOTION SENSOR	17
EFFECT OF LIGAND ATTACHED TO FLUORESCEIN ON THE	
PHOTOCURRENT OF DYE SENSITIZED SOLAR CELLS	18
ANALYSIS OF "ANGULIMALA SUTTA" USING VOICED TO UNVOICED	
RATIO AND FORMANT VARIATIONS	19
MODELLING OF MONTHLY VEHICLE REGISTRATION IN SRI LANKA	
USING SARIMA APPROACH	20
A STUDY ON THE PERFORMANCE OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE	
SUBJECTS USING CANONICAL CORRELATION ANALYSIS	21
A SIMULATION PROCEDURE ON THE APPROPRIATE SEED SELECTION	
METHOD IN RESPONDENT DRIVEN SAMPLING	22
DETERMINATION OF RARE EARTH ELEMENT CONTENT IN	
PULMODDAI BASED MONAZITE	23
INTERPRETATION OF THREE GEOTHERMAL FIELDS SITUATED IN	
EASTERN PART OF SRI LANKA USING RESISTIVITY AND MAGNETIC	
METHODS	24
ACCESS CONTROLLING SOLUTION USING MOBILE PHONE SECURITY	
FEATURES	25
INTELLIGENT SYSTEM FOR HIGH RESOLUTION COMPUTED TOMOGRAP	
(HRCT) IMAGE ANALYSIS: A CONCEPT	26

# CONTEMPORARY AND COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CUSTOMS AND BELIEFS IN HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

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Although this is an era with marvels of Science and Engineering, the shadows of customs and beliefs of diverse fields are still followed in different levels. It is evident that a considerable number of customs and beliefs in house construction are yet followed by people in countries like Sri Lanka, India and China. In this study, contemporary status and reasons behind admitting those beliefs were investigated through a questionnaire survey carried out among the main stakeholders of the construction industry. A sample of 210 individuals consist of 75 Civil Engineers, 45 Architects, 30 Astrologers, 30 Carpenters and 30 Masons were randomly selected for this study. The study revealed that 68% of respondents are believed in customs and beliefs while 32% disregard. 41% of Civil Engineers, 27% of Architects, 97% of Astrologers, 100% of Masons and 97% of Carpenters are believed in customs and beliefs. As specific responses of respondents, 81% opted not to erect three or more aligned openings and not to place wall plates, rafters or beams directly on top of the openings, 75% of respondents have no willingness to place more west facing doors and windows while 73% respondents reluctant on cross wall junctions in brick walls. The study revealed that, though Masons, Carpenters and Astrologers adopt those beliefs as they inherit them from generation to generation which are being startled of their occult grab, Civil Engineers and Architects believe on these with some understanding in Engineering concepts. It divulged that when the people become more educated they tend to discard traditional beliefs in building construction and deal with some knowledge on Engineering and Scientific concepts.

**Keywords**: residential buildings, mini commercial buildings, customs and beliefs