

Press Release / Press Briefings

Topic

75th Anniversary Celebrations of Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Introduction to the topic/event

With great honour and pride we inform you that the Department of Community Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

Theme

A Legacy of 75 Years: Advancing Health and Well-being

The main content

Since its establishment in 1949, the Department contributed immensely to the development of the Faculty, the University of Colombo, and the health sector in Sri Lanka at large. It is recognised as a centre that provides impactful contributions to all fields of medicine in our country. Over the past decades the Department has made important contributions for the upliftment of the discipline of Community Medicine through a wide range of activities undertaken related to services, training and research. The department is responsible for training doctors competent in public health in-order to protect and promote health and wellbeing of the population. The department also contributes in a magnanimous manner to the upliftment of health and health care quality of our nation through services provided from the Pita Kotte Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area. Many novel practices have been introduced to this field practice area over the past 75 years, some of which are now adopted at national level. Introduction of the concept of monthly conference at MOH level, Suwa Divi Piyasa, elderly clinic and occupational health clinic are a few examples. Occupational health and safety activities of the Department commenced in the 1980's. The Department was designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Training and Research in Occupational Health in October 2012. The Health Systems Research Unit of the Department has generated evidence that were used to inform key policy decisions in the health sector in Sri Lanka.

Events to mark the occasion

1. 75th anniversary ceremony

This will be the landmark event that is organized with around 300 participants and is scheduled to be held on 3rd December 2024, from 1 pm to 5 pm at the UCFM main auditorium.

2. Publishing a 75th anniversary souvenirs

The 75th anniversary souvenir along with department research publications and a series of other documents will be released during the main event.

3. Public awareness campaign

Public awareness will be raised through social media posting through all leading mass media and social media platforms. A special video will be produced to showcase the role of the Department and its contribution to the health system in the country. A webinar series will be conducted monthly on current public health issues.

4. Photographic/art exhibition with a publications stall

This exhibition will add value to the whole event with opportunities for a wider audience including students, parents, staff and other visitors of the faculty to witness the role of the Community Medicine Department.

5. Grand monthly conference of Pita Kotte MOH

A special monthly conference will be organized with the field health staff of Pita Kotte MOH, Past MOH's, Western Provincial Health staff etc. as a tribute to the health care services carried out over the past 75 years.

6. Social and cultural Events

Social gatherings with a fellowship dinner and cultural events with the present and past staff will be held as team building events.

Details of your institute/programe and the contact numbers

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