



'Lifting the Lid': Developing Academic Literacy as a Means of Supporting English Medium Degree Programmes



This workshop focuses on the development of the Academic Literacy (AL) of undergraduates as a means of ensuring academic success in English Medium Degree Programmes (EMDPs) in the state universities of Sri Lanka. The number of EMDPs is steadily increasing in Sri Lankan Higher Education (SLHE), but there is a lack of awareness and/or lack of attention to the concept of AL, which has the potential to minimise the struggle faced by undergraduates as they transition from school to university education. The scope of this workshop is firstly to help the participants identify what academic literacy is, its positioning in English Medium Instruction (EMI) settings, and its importance in EMDPs; secondly, to discuss and share practical examples of successful implementation of AL; and finally, to discuss challenges and solutions to successful AL development. This workshop will provide the participants with a hands-on experience of discovering the concepts and practices of AL to be applied in their respective disciplinary contexts for successful facilitation of undergraduate education.

Workshop Programme

Session	Topic	Activities	Resource Person(s)
1	Introduction to the concept of Academic Literacy	Current practices of AL in EMI, positioning of AL in EMI, and significance of AL for EMDPs	<i>Dr. Romola Rassool</i>
2	Implementation of AL in Engineering/Applied Sciences contexts	AL implementation, AL models, and examples of AL development in science-based disciplines	<i>Dr. Nadee Mahawattha</i>
3	Challenges and solutions	Challenges of AL in context, the four pillars of AL development, and success stories and solutions	<i>Ms. Osanka Rathnasiri</i>

Speakers

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Workshop objectives

- To raise awareness of AL among state university academics, especially the academic staff of Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- To discuss the importance of AL in EMDPs
- To identify perceived challenges to AL development

Goal

- To raise awareness about the dire need for AL in EMDPs and to address issues that arise from the absence of clearly-defined, English-medium-specific linguistic benchmarks aimed at fostering academic literacy in EMDPs

Expected outcomes

- Identification of discipline-specific challenges to academic literacy development
- Strategies for effective implementation of academic literacy practices within specific disciplines

Target audience

- Content lecturers of EMDPs, irrespective of academic discipline
- English language lecturers
- Any personnel interested in STEM education or EMI

Participation is
FREE

WORKSHOP 8

8th International Multidisciplinary Engineering Research Conference

29th
July 2022

1.30 pm -
4.30 pm

