

2.12 Annual Report of Western Sydney University Student Chapter

2.12.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives

The CIB student chapter at Western Sydney University officially inaugurated by Professor Srinath Perera (The Senior Academic Advisor) and Dr. Robert Osei-Kyei (Academic Advisor) at Centre for Smart Modern Construction (c4SMC), School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. An election was held for the appointment of first executive committee members and Priyadarshai Das was elected as the first president for WSU-CIB chapter in 2019. CIB election involves with the student members, and it is the first right to participate to the activities conducted by WSU-CIB Chapter. Before the election, every student who wish to vote was registered as a member for the Chapter. The first executive committee comprised of Priyadarshani Das, Buddhini Ginigaddara, Amer Hajazi, Lavender Liu and Kasun Gunasekara. In 2019/2020, the elected chapter initiated and executed a series of impactful activities. We were honoured with the Western Sydney University -Vice Chancellor's Excellence Awards in December 2020, recognising the outstanding contributions for University Engagement and Sustainability.

In the following year, from 2020 to 2021, a new committee was appointed by an election and Buddhini Ginigaddara was selected as the President for the WSU- CIB Chapter in (2020/2021). The executive committee members were Buddhini Ginigaddara, De-Graft Joe Opoku, Thilini Weerasuriya, Amer Hijazi and Kasun Gunasekara. Number of noteworthy events such as the CIB c4SMC Collective Sensemaking Research Competition, The Student Sunset Social, CIB Conversations and CIB Student Chapters Collaborative Research Seminar was organised by the WSU-CIB student Chapter. These activities aimed to foster intellectual growth, collaboration, and research engagement among members.

Consecutively, a new executive team was appointed for the years 2021/2023 and De-Graft Opoku Was elected as the president. The executive team comprised of De-Graft Joe Opoku, Thilini Weerasuriya, Shiyamini Ratnasabapathy, Kola Olayiwola, Lavender Liu and Daniel Bonatti. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic between 2021 and 2023, c4SMC Colloquium was organised to enhance the engagement of staff. Further, AUBEA 2022 conference hosted by Western Sydney University in November 2022 was organized with great honour.

Another new chapter was started on 01 of August 2023, with the appointment of new executive committee. Prasad Perera was appointed as the President for 2023/2024 and the executive team consists of Mathusha Francis, Sachindra Hewavitharana, Mona Jahangir Zadeh, Sashini Jayakodi, Iresha Gamage and Tusharbai Gajjar. Number of exciting events are planned for the 2023 and 2024 year by the executive committee.

Aim of our WSU-CIB Student Chapter is to work align with CIB Student chapters and to provide a means by which students who will be the future leaders of building research and innovation are able to engage with and be inspired by current leading-edge building research worldwide, and to appreciate at first hand the value of international exchange and cooperation. Vision of the chapter is to be a recognised industry – collaborated research

group with a culture of knowledge sharing and intellectual interaction among higher degree researchers and undergraduate students alike.

Objectives of the Western Sydney University Student Chapter are,

1. To raise awareness among students about activities of the CIB and significant developments in research in built environment.
2. To establish a platform for students to connect with like-minded peers, academics, and professionals in their field of interest.
3. To offer resources and workshops aimed at equipping students with enhanced research and technical skills, positioning them for success in careers as industry professionals or researchers.

2.12.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year

- Completed activities
 - February 2023
 - Industry – Academic Roundtable
 - Academic Roundtable themed ‘Digital Imperatives for Net Zero Built Environment’ held 28 February 2023 at the Peter Shergold Building (1PSQ), Western Sydney University. This event was led and organized by CIB student members, who also had the opportunity to present their research to a distinguished audience of international academics and industry professionals. The event was graced by the presence of the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and the Dean of the School of Engineering, Design, and Built Environment, and Professor Srinath Perera, who serves as both the Director of the Centre for Smart Modern Construction and the Senior Academic Advisor for the CIB student chapter at WSU. The Executive Director of Compliance at the NSW Department of Customer Service delivered a keynote address titled 'Delivering NSW a More Capable & Productive Industry.' Following this, two industry experts presented on digital solutions aimed at enhancing compliance within the industry. Subsequently, student researchers had the opportunity to showcase three of their cutting-edge research projects, aiming to secure high-level acceptance within the industry."

CIB Student Chapter Members at c4SMC Industry - Academic Roundtable

February 2023



- Upcoming activities

- December 2023

- AI Odyssey: Directions and Implications for the Society and Industry

- The event titled "AI Odyssey: Directions and Implications for the Society and Industry" will be organised by the Western Sydney University CIB student chapter in collaboration with the Centre for Smart Modern Construction (c4SMC), at the School of Engineering Design and Built Environment (SoEDBE).

The event aims to provide HDR students with an opportunity to probe into cutting-edge AI topics, encouraging them to think beyond existing boundaries and pioneer new ideas. Research is a pursuit of pushing knowledge borders and shaping the future, making it crucial for HDR students to critically understand AI's potential impact on their research areas and how they can contribute to the evolving landscape of intelligence. AI is inherently multidisciplinary, spanning various domains.

However, a debate and discussion surrounding AI and its implications for the construction industry and society are both timely and crucial. This multifaceted topic necessitates a comprehensive exploration of both the advantageous and detrimental effects AI would create for modern businesses. While AI undeniably proffers advantages such as efficiency, safety, and strategic planning, it concurrently introduces challenges encompassing workforce displacement, prejudices, ethical considerations, and the development of requisite skills. Striking a balance between embracing AI's capabilities and



addressing its potential downsides is imperative to ensure an equitable future for both the construction industry and society. The event comprises two AI-related research presentations by HDR students and a panel discussion with invited AI experts. Furthermore, the collaboration of international researchers at the event will disseminate knowledge on upcoming AI trends offering valuable insights. In conclusion, "AI Odyssey: Directions and Implications for the Society and Industry" promises to be an engaging, informative, and inspiring session for HDR research students, equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and motivation to become pioneers in the rapidly evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence.

2.12.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in 2024








- February 2024
 - Industry – Academic Roundtable
 - An inclusive roundtable session will be planned for collaborative engagement between industry experts and academic professionals. This event provides a unique platform for in depth discussions, knowledge sharing, and the exploration of mutual interests in research and technology.
- April 2024
 - Blockchain Proficiency Summit
 - A comprehensive, one-day virtual workshop dedicated to Blockchain Programming. Participants can anticipate an immersive experience aimed at exposing extensive knowledge, practical skills, and real-world insights in the dynamic field of blockchain technology. This event will feature insights and involvement of four distinguished blockchain experts as resource persons.
- August 2024
 - Digital Research Fusion Challenge
 - A stimulating poster presentation competition, focusing on the theme of "Collaborative Digital Research Solutions," inviting participation from a diverse spectrum of built environment researchers, ranging from PhD candidates to undergraduate students. Participants are encouraged to present collaboratively in small groups (3-4 individuals) to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. At the culmination of the event, three outstanding presentations will be identified and awarded. This event will be physically hosted, offering a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and innovative research.



2.12.4 Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter

Name	Position	Email
Professor Srinath Perera	Senior Advisor	srinath.perera@westernsydney.edu.au
Dr. Samudaya Nanayakkara	Advisor	samudaya.n@westernsydney.edu.au
Parasad Perera	President	22048291@student.westernsydney.edu.au
Mathusha Francis	Vice President	22078099@student.westernsydney.edu.au
Ferose Sachindra Thathsarani Hewavitharana	Secretar	22068387@student.westernsydney.edu.au
Iresha Gamage	Treasur	22085159@student.westernsydney.edu.au
Shashini Jayakodi	Project Leads Events	22081055@student.westernsydney.edu.au
Mona Jahangir Zadeh	Project Leads Promotions	22081087@student.westernsydney.edu.au
Tusharbhaj Gajjar	Project Leads Membership	20023225@student.westernsydney.edu.au

WSU-CIB Student Chapter Executive Committee Members

 Prasad Perera President	 Mathusha Francis Vice President	 Ferose Sachindra Hewavitharana Secretary	
 Mona Jahangir Zadeh Project Leads - Promotions	 Iresha Gamage Treasurer	 Shashini Jayakodi Project Leads - Events	 Tusharbhaj Gajjar Project Leads - Membership