

STUDENT *Life*

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COVER STORY

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*The Voice of
Following
Your Own Heart*

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in the World**
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**Keeping
the Flag
Unfurled**

*St. Peter's College
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**Expanding
Horizons of
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*Horizon Campus
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Expanding horizons of knowledge

Horizon Campus enters new chapter with Knowledge City Malabe

By Chamindra Warusawitharane
Photography by Mihiran Gunasekara



Mr Ajitha Wanasinghe - CEO - Horizon Campus



Mr Thilina Magalla - Head of Marketing



Integrity, Innovation and Empowerment are the cornerstones of Horizon Campus Malabe which recently stepped into a new chapter in offering world class education to students with the launch of a purpose-built, next-generation multi story, multi-space university facility at the “Knowledge City Malabe”(KCM). Themed – ‘a new city, a new life’, the new university facility creates a platform and an environment

geared to inspire the next generation of Sri Lankans to pursue innovative thinking and become self-directed lifelong learners capable of expanding their horizons. We sat down with Mr Ajitha Wanasinghe - Chief Executive Officer and Mr Thilina Magalla - Head of Marketing to talk about Horizon Campus, newly launched ‘Knowledge City Malabe’(KCM) and the organizations’ way forward.

1. Could you talk about the overall philosophy of your campus and its core values?

We consistently base our approach to education, capacity building and nurturing students to become knowledgeable, inventive and future-ready on our core values of Integrity, Innovation and Empowerment. The education system in Sri Lanka sorely lack direction in guiding our younger generation to integrate well into the modern era and the world after the fourth industrial revolution. We need to facilitate an educational approach that is holistic and inspires creativity and critical and analytical thinking. At Horizon Campus our educational programmes, the partnerships that we develop with international universities and the facilities we provide our students all work harmoniously towards creating a conducive environment for students to thrive, and become successful in their chosen field of study wherever in the world they go. We help our students understand the importance of comprehending the requirements of the modern world, and developing their skill set, attitudes and knowledge to succeed.

2. What are the opportunities you offer your students (programmes, facilities etc)?

At present, there are 8 faculties in Horizon Campus; IT, Management, Education, Science, Law, Health Services and Technology. While we award degrees and Hospitality locally for some programmes, we work with a number of affiliated international universities to award degrees to our students in some streams and programmes. At the moment, we are affiliated with a number of Universities from the United Kingdom, Australia and Malaysia including the University of London, Asia E University from Malaysia, South West Minnesota State University of the USA, La Trobe University Australia and the Birmingham City University from the UK. We are well aware that research

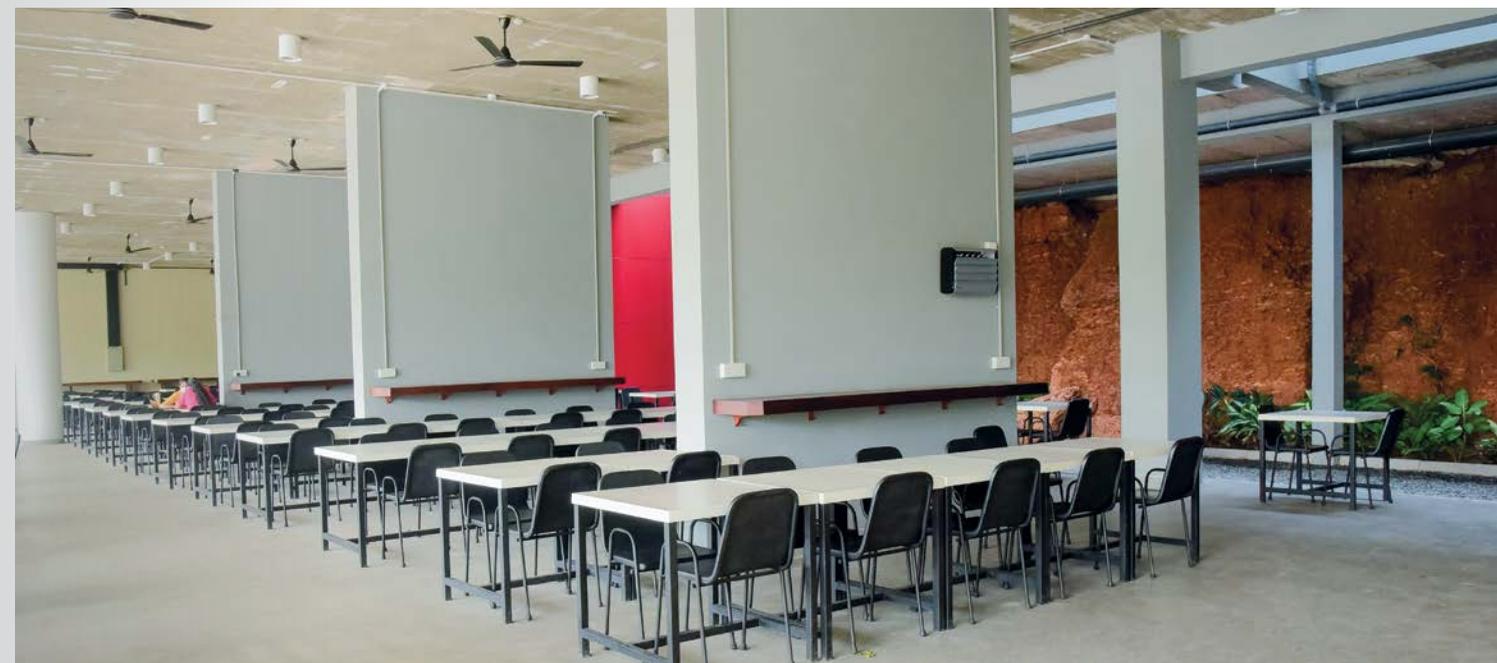
plays an integral role in academic pursuits. We provide ample, opportunities, facilities, time and space for our students to conduct comprehensive research. We are working towards becoming a research driven university in the near future. In addition, we provide students with plenty of free space to interact, collaborate between faculties, and build networks.



3. Horizon Campus recently unveiled a new state-of-the-art expansion. Could you talk about this?

We sincerely believe that a university is much more than buildings, course-content and partnerships. A university is a place that inspires students to create, learn, remain curious, build networks

and lay the foundation for a lifetime of pursuing knowledge, analyzing the status quo and becoming wholesome individuals who are capable of not only thriving in the modern world but also changing its course for better. This is why we focused our attention on creating a rich, vast university environment filled not only with well-equipped laboratories, libraries,



IT centres and lecture halls but also nature, space for freedom and growth.

We have already invested LKR 4 Billion in developing the purpose built Knowledge City Malabe' (KCM). The entire facility is well-equipped with four different academic laboratories to facilitate research and development in various fields including biotechnology and molecular biology. We built a comprehensive IT centre and a vast library. Moreover, we have provided students with amenities they need to spend their academic life within the KCM premises, focusing on academic and research pursuits and building a strong network and foundation that would carry them far in life. We have separate sports areas including a swimming pool and cricket ground to enable students to follow their passions in the sports arena as well. There are tree lined avenues along the

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university premises, and in the future there will even be a supermarket near the university premises. We are now ready to provide academic facilities on par with universities from the UK, Australia and Malaysia within Sri Lanka.

We have already built comfortable accommodation facilities for students who come from far corners of the county as well as our overseas students. We have even built a business incubator to help students with startups. We remain committed to guiding our students beyond fulfilling their academic objectives.

Our aim is to create a purpose-built yet constantly evolving space. We are a non-state education institute, but we have never wavered from striving to create an environment and approach that facilitate a true university experience to our students.



4. How will the new facilities contribute to add value to the student experience you offer?

Knowledge City Malabe is a new concept to Sri Lanka. The cumulative expanse of the University is about 28 acres. The entire facility will evolve in time to include separate restaurants, gym, food chains, and supermarkets etc. – the kind of facilities you need to create a self-sustaining and thriving knowledge hub. We have provided and will continue to provide facilities such as sports grounds that enable students to pursue their various interests to become well-rounded, healthy individuals.

In time to come the KCM project will not only change the lives of our students but also the landscape of Malabe. Nevertheless, our core intention is to provide students a university experience on par with international levels. We are confident that KMC will become a true learning space for our students.

5. What are your future plans?

At present, we have around 400 overseas students who are studying with us. We plan on expanding our international student base, and invite prospective students from Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, India and Middle East to pursue their academic careers with us. This ties in well with the larger national objective of bringing in revenue through facilitating foreign students in Sri Lanka. We already have the necessary infrastructure and systems in Sri Lanka. We simply need the initiative to capitalize on this.

Meanwhile, we will continue to provide more resources and evolve with the world to provide our students guidance beyond mere academics to succeed in their endeavours. A conducive learning space create lifelong learners, and make a lasting impact in their lives. ■