

# ODYSSEY

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Thursday, October 10, 2024



**CHEER FOR MORA**  
PATH TO GLORY

**Blue Revive 24-25**  
**Phase 1**  
Restoring Shores,  
Reviving Oceans

**BINARA PADURA**  
Harmonic Waves,  
Vibrant Essence.

# LINE UP

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on the first quarter of our Rotaract year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the journey we've embarked on together. This has been a period of growth, collaboration, and impactful service, as we successfully concluded multiple projects that have left a lasting impression on both our club and the community. These milestones were made possible by the dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering commitment of our general members of the club and the leadership of our newly appointed Board of Directors.



From day one, our mission has been clear, to unite as a team and work towards a common vision of creating meaningful change. Bringing together our Board of Directors has been a rewarding experience, as we've worked in harmony to set the foundation for an incredible year ahead. I have been continuously inspired by the creativity, teamwork, and leadership displayed by every member of this board. Each project we've undertaken has brought us closer, proving that we are stronger together, working towards shared goals with passion and purpose.

This year's theme, "Serving today, inspiring tomorrow", embodies the essence of what we aim to achieve not just as individuals, but as a collective force for good. Our focus is not only on executing impactful service projects but also on inspiring our general membership to actively engage and take ownership of the work we do. I truly believe that each act of service today has the potential to inspire a brighter tomorrow, creating a meaningful effect.

As we move forward, I encourage every member to embrace the opportunities that come with being part of this club. Each of you brings unique talents, perspectives, and strengths, and it is through your involvement that we can reach new heights. Whether it's participating in hands-on projects, brainstorming new initiatives, or simply supporting one another, your contribution is invaluable. Remember, the success of our club lies in our collective will to serve, and together, we can create a future that inspires

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what the next quarter will bring. I am confident that with the momentum we've built, the projects we have in line will be even more beautiful, impactful, and fulfilling. We have set a high standard in the first quarter, and I have no doubt that we will continue to raise the bar as we journey through the rest of the year.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. To our Board of Directors for your leadership and vision, to our general members for your enthusiasm and dedication, and to our partners and friends for your unwavering support. Together, we are creating something truly special and something that will continue to inspire and shape the future.

Let us all continue to serve with heart and lead with purpose. The best is yet to come.

Yours in service,  
Rtr. Hiruni Perera  
President 2024-25  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa

# SECRETARY 'S MESSAGE



It is with immense pleasure and pride that I pen a few words about our Newsletter for the First Quarter of the RI Year 2024/25.

This Newsletter is a combination of our initial projects that were conducted during the months of July, August, and September.

The club members displayed immense enthusiasm and dedication towards the activities of the club, commencing from Jam Room, which was the very first project for the year targeting a smooth transition of the Board of Officials, up until Rota Novatos, the last project for the quarter, which introduced Rotaract Mora to the NDT students at University of Moratuwa.

Our club was able to initiate a total of 17 projects while successfully completing 5 projects during the first quarter. Whereas 4 out of the remaining projects have already completed a number of phases related to the project.

The most significant project during the first quarter was Binara Padura a project under the Club Service Avenue which attracted an audience of over one thousand undergraduate students. The project provided opportunities for students to showcase their musical talents and increase confidence in themselves by performing to a large audience. It also ensured that the students were able to enjoy the magic of music amidst their stressful academic life. Moreover, a beach clean up under project Blue Revive was also successfully conducted during this quarter a long side the partnership with Parley.

This quarter also witnessed a series of weekly and bi-weekly executed projects carried out under the Information Technology Avenue titled Weekly Tech Byte and Mora TechConnect respectively.

As we approach the Second Quarter of the current RI Year, we are looking forward to commence some of our signature projects of our club and ensure that we continue to serve the community to the best of our ability.

As members of Rotaract Mora we continue to remain true to our theme "Serving Today, Inspiring Tomorrow" by conducting all our projects in an exemplary manner.

Rtr. Brinstan Peries  
Secretary RI Year 2024-25  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa

# FROM THE EDITORS



We are incredibly pleased and honoured to publish the University of Moratuwa Rotaract Club's First Quarter Newsletter for the RI year 2024-2025. This quarter has been outstanding, and our members have continued to exemplify the values of excellence in service and collaboration. We have devoted many hours to advancing meaningful projects that have a long-lasting effect on our university and the larger community.

This edition encapsulates all we've achieved together, from fruitful volunteer endeavours to instances of mutual development and camaraderie. Our combined efforts serve as a monument to what we are capable of when we are motivated by the same desire to improve the lives of others significantly.

This edition highlights some of our club's major achievements, showcasing our commitment to professional, personal, and service development.

To support the 2023 batch of Engineering Faculty students, the "Kuppi" Program was launched, offering two weekly sessions focused on theory, practice exams, and assignment assistance. With over 700 participants attending these sessions regularly, the program has been a massive success. The "MentHer" project empowers young women by connecting them with experienced mentors and providing professional guidance and career advice to help them achieve their goals.

In collaboration with Parley, the first phase of the "Blue Revive 24/25" beach cleanup has successfully concluded, restoring the natural beauty of Mount Lavinia Beach and raising awareness about ocean conservation. Our "Binara Padura" project offered university students an opportunity to showcase their talents, gain project experience, and build friendships, all while taking a well-deserved break from their academic responsibilities and contributing to their personal growth.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members, alumni, and supporters who have made these achievements possible. Your unwavering dedication and enthusiasm fuel our mission to create lasting change. As we look ahead, we are filled with excitement for the projects and opportunities yet to come.

Thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey

Rtr.Thiyara Ranasinghe  
Rtr. Varun Poobalaraja  
Rtr. Teshadi Senanayake  
Editors 2024-25  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



# COMMUNITY

# SERVICE

## Hand In Hand



"Hand in Hand", a heartfelt initiative by the Rotaract Club stands as a year-round commitment to support cancer patients, particularly those at Apeksha Cancer Hospital and Karapitiya Teaching Hospital.

What began as a movement of giving hope has grown into a service of enhancing the lives of children and adults who battle against cancer. For the year 2024-25 mission continues to expand the efforts through fundraising, cancer awareness programs and emotional support for the patients. This year our journey continues with the reconnection with our incredible supporters at the Colombo International Book Fair in September-October 2024 and the Colombo Shopping Festival in December, where every donation brings us closer to make a significant impact.

February 2025 marks a special moment with the donation of king coconuts to the patients of Karapitiya Cancer Hospital as a thoughtful gesture to boost their strength and bravely undergo treatments. Our iconic 'Hand in Hand' T-shirts offers a symbol of contribution to the buyers. Additionally, beautifully crafted bangles will once again be available, creating more opportunities for the fundraising program. With every step forward, 'Hand in Hand' paves the way to foster the minds with hope, compassion and love for those, fighting with the hardest battles of their lives.

# ENVIROMENTAL



# SERVICE

## Blue Revive 24/25



Blue Revive project focuses on providing solutions to the ever-growing issue of marine waste. With this aim Blue Revive 24-25 campaign kicked off its first phase with a successful beach cleanup at Mount Lavinia Beach on September 8, 2024. Running from 7 AM to 10 AM, this event was organized in collaboration with Parley, an environmental organization dedicated to protecting the environment.

Many volunteers worked diligently to restore the natural beauty of the beach and raise awareness about ocean conservation

Previous to the commencement of the cleanup, participants were briefed by Parley on the devastating effects of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems. Then non-degradable waste was collected and sorted into categories including hard plastics, soft plastics, glass, and metal. Towards the end of the proposed time period, a large section of the beach had been transformed to a one free of harmful debris and volunteers were treated to refreshments, capping off a productive and rewarding day. Hence it is with much excitement that we are able to announce that the Blue Revive 24-25 campaign will continue with its second phase scheduled for October.



# PROFESSIONAL



# DEVELOPMENT

The Rotaract Club of the University of Moratuwa has made professional development a cornerstone of its activities this year, launching several key initiatives aimed at equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to excel in both their academic and professional lives. Through three flagship projects, Project Catalyst 2024, the "Kuppi" program, and MentHer, the club continues to create a dynamic and supportive environment for learning and personal growth.

## Project Catalyst 2024

### Shaping Strategic Leaders



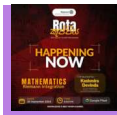
Building on its successful legacy, Project Catalyst 2024 served as an intensive board training program under the Professional Development Avenue. Focusing on innovative thinking, strategic leadership, and practical teamwork, Catalyst provided board members with a comprehensive toolkit to tackle their roles effectively. The program featured a blend of hands-on leadership challenges and mentorship from experienced corporate trainers, helping participants develop problem-solving skills, adaptability, and collaborative working techniques. As the Rotaract Club looks forward to a year of impactful projects, Catalyst has prepared its leaders to spearhead initiatives with confidence and vision.



## Kuppi Program

### Academic Support for Engineering Students In line with its commitment to student success

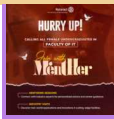
The Rotaract Club introduced the Kuppi Program, tailored specifically for the 2023 batch of Engineering Faculty students. Recognizing the challenges of rigorous coursework, this initiative offers at least two online sessions per week, focusing on theoretical concepts, past exam papers, and assignment guidance. The flexible, online format ensures accessibility, with each session also being live streamed on YouTube for broader reach. Facilitated by experienced professionals, the Kuppi Program fosters a collaborative learning environment, empowering students to excel academically while building confidence in tackling difficult subjects.



## MentHer

### Guiding Women Toward Professional Success

The ongoing MentHer initiative is another cornerstone of the club's professional development efforts, aimed at supporting young women through mentorship. Connecting female undergraduates with accomplished female mentors, MentHer provides valuable guidance and career advice across a series of structured sessions. The project emphasizes skill development, career exploration, and personal growth, enabling participants to interact with professionals from diverse industries. As the program continues through October,



MentHer is building a supportive community where young women are empowered to set and achieve their personal and professional goals. Together, these initiatives underscore the Rotaract Club's dedication to nurturing talent, fostering leadership, and providing valuable resources for academic and professional success. By creating spaces where students can grow, collaborate, and lead, the club is paving the way for a brighter, more empowered future.



# SPORTS AND SPECIAL SERVICE



## CHEER FOR MORA - PATH TO GLORY

Amidst an exhilarating rally of support, Cheer for Mora - Path to Glory came to light on the 10th of September 2024. This initiative was organized by the Sports Avenue of the Rotaract Club of the University of Moratuwa in partnership with the Mora Spirit Club. This collaboration was focused on motivating and supporting our university's sports teams as they prepare to compete in prestigious inter-university matches.



The athletes are at the forefront of everything that we do. Our efforts pave the way for them to gain invaluable qualities such as teamwork, perseverance, and leadership, which are beneficial both in sports and in life. By partnering with the Mora Spirit Club, Cheer for Mora was elevated to a truly inspiring level. The campaign amplified the supportive environment around our athletes with more encouragement and resources. Through this project, we aspire to foster a culture of excellence, and dedication centered around sports. Our ultimate aim is to build a collective sense of unity that resonates throughout the university community.



Cheer for Mora is a cornerstone for the sports community in the University of Moratuwa. Not only students, but also alumni, and faculty are getting together to build a stronger support network for our teams. We expect to boost the competitive spirit and confidence in our athletes. These campaigns would motivate their performance and resilience during competitions. Our teams receive an inspiring amount of recognition and visibility by such activities. They result in a significant boost in morale for them. In the future we hope to create more opportunities and collaborations backed by the university's commitment to sports. We are not just about celebrating the wins of our amazing athletes. In the long term sense,

Our goal is to ensure the sustainable growth of our university's sports programs. In the coming years, we wish to see many future generations of athletes inspired and driven by this program. Together, with the strength of our collaboration, let's embrace the spirit of Cheer for Mora and fuel the journey to glory for our athletes.



# CLUB



# SERVICE

## Transition Meeting



On July 13th, the Rotaract Club of the University of Moratuwa marked a defining moment in its journey with an inspiring Transition Meeting. The event was more than just a formal handover, it was a celebration of growth, leadership and unity. This pivotal event brought together past and present leaders of the club, providing a platform for the incoming board to connect with the outgoing team, fostering with a shared vision and mutual understanding as the new leadership prepared to chart new horizons.



Rtr. Chyaga Hadunpathirana. Following this, Rtr. Yasiru Athugaldura, the outgoing President took the opportunity to convey his heartfelt gratitude to the past board and distributed tokens of appreciation to the outgoing board members.

The highlight of the occasion came when Rtr. Theoda Hettiarachchi formally introduced the incoming president, Rtr. Hiruni Perera, marking the official leadership transition. With the symbolic passing of the collar, Rtr. Yasiru brought the Rotaract year 2023-24 to a close, paving the way for an exciting new chapter.



In her address, Rtr. Hiruni Perera pledged her commitment in maintaining the club's standards and leading with dedication. The new Board of Officials for 2024- 25 was introduced by the newest president Rtr. Hiruni Perera, presenting appointment letters to each member with the hope of another year marked by meaningful service and growth.

The Transition Ceremony not only marked a change in leadership but also symbolized the continuity of the Rotaract Club's mission to foster leadership and growth. With the new board and a renewed sense of purpose, the Rotaract Club of the University of Moratuwa is poised to continue its legacy of making a lasting impact on the community under the theme "Serving Today, Inspiring Tomorrow" for the year 2024-25.







## Jam Room

In an effort to build bridges and foster stronger connections Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa launched the exciting Jam Room to strengthen bonds and ensure a seamless leadership transition. This dynamic event was organized to create a platform for the outgoing Board of Officials for the Rotary International (RI) year 2023-24 and the incoming Board of Directors for 2024-25 to connect, collaborate, and cultivate lasting relationships.



On the day of the event, members were divided into groups and immersed in a variety of team-based challenges and tasks, enhancing communication, collaboration, trust and problem solving. The activities ranged from creating projects to trust-building exercises, all created to encourage everyone to discover their strengths while learning about other's unique abilities.

These collaborative tasks not only facilitated a transition of responsibilities and commitments but also nurtured a sense of unity and camaraderie that will carry the new board forward into the upcoming year. One of the defining features of Jam Room was its focus on inclusivity and active participation. By bringing together board members from various backgrounds, this project created a welcoming environment which played vital role in strengthening personal connections. As the event progressed, the improvement in communication and engagement among members became effective, with a noticeable rise in understanding, new friendships and reinforcing the sense of unity among the boards. Jam Room successfully paved the way for a smoother transition, solidifying relationships that nourish the club's efforts and dedication in the year ahead





## Binara Padura



An unforgettable evening of rhythm and harmony unfolded as the Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa hosted the spectacular musical event Binara Padura, to bring together the newest 23rd batch, providing them a warm introduction to the vibrant community of Rotaract Mora. The event's journey began with the formation of an organizing committee consisting with singers, dancers, content creators, video editors and more, including well-executed promotions and marketing efforts.

The on-site setup and decoration transformed the Lagaan premises into a breathtaking tapestry of music and art. On the 25th of September, Binara Padura illuminated the Lagaan premises and filled the air with lively notes that still resonated with us, telling stories of joy and unity.

It was an enchanting moment, as the melodious tunes touched our deepest emotions and evoked a sense of nostalgia and joy. The dancers delivered a breathtaking performance with captivating movements, that left us spellbound.



Though the musical crescendo has ended, this event truly highlighted the power of music to unite and inspire the hearts of the audience, leaving them mesmerized and craving more. It was a celebration of talent, unity and the unspoken magic that only music can create.



# MIRROR WALL



**R.A Himashi Kavindya Rathnayake**  
Faculty of Architecture

## Hope

Candles lay dead  
Their last breath  
Now just a tiny speck  
Against the weeping breeze

I still see the stars  
Blurred and fading  
Keeping my head held high  
With all my strength

This is when she told me  
Not in words  
But in warmth that she holds  
In her embrace


"Im here"  
I felt her say  
"I ll be your last star  
When everything else  
Fades away"

**Udula Abeysinghe**  
Faculty of Engineering



These ones by  
**Achinthya Udari Wickramasinghe**  
Faculty of Engineering  
(Fashion Design and Product  
Development)





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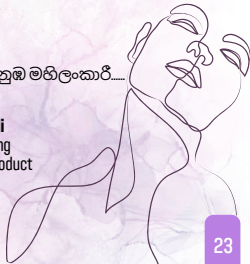
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**H.A.Vishmi Savindi**  
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**H.G.Navidi Nethsiluni Wijekoon**  
Faculty of Engineering  
(Fashion Design and Product  
Development)



# PARTNERS

1ST QUARTER - RI YEAR 2024-25



Thank You For Your Immense Support!





# NEWSLETTER TEAM



# CHAIRPERSONS



**Nethu  
Lamahewa**



**Hemesh  
Manujaya**



# WRITERS



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# DESIGNERS



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