

Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

COVID-19 - Crisis Response:

Donation of 100 Face Shields to Kuliyapitiya and Kurunegala Hospital Staff

At this very moment the world is seeing a worst crisis of hospitals losing their capacities to treat Covid-19 patients. At this very moment, Sri Lanka is pondering whether it could slide into a crisis. To avoid such disaster, it is very important to keep the medical crews of all levels healthy and safe in order to avoid staff shortages at crucial times. **To help keep the staff of the closely associated hospitals safe, the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka swiftly took actions to fabricate 100 face shields of high quality and durability and to donate them the hospitals on the 09th of April, 2020.**



The face shields for the general medical care staff are known to be under threats of Covid-19 infected patients who accidentally come in contact with general care units before being transferred to Covid-19 special units. User requirements of medical personal were carefully considered and possible alternatives were considered before the fabrications.



The design and fabrication were selected to cater such general medical care staff to get and additional protection on top of face masks and goggles and will be useful in fighting any highly contagious diseases later on. Readily available safety helmets and visors designed for motorbike helmets have best served the purpose of the project. One unit has cost around 600 rupees.



After receiving the requests from the Kuliypitiya and Kurunegala Hospitals, the Vice Chancellor, Prof E.M.P. Ekanayake decided to sponsor the donation through the VC fund. The project was led by Dr. I.P.M. Wickramasinghe, Head of Department of Mechanical and

Manufacturing Technology, Faculty of Technology under the guidance of the Act. Dean Dr. A.M.N. Alagiyawanna. The Lab Attendant Mr. P.M. Wijendra immediately brought up the design and fabrication concept to meet the requirements and he fabricated all the shields very quickly. A special thank goes to Dr. J.M.J.W. Jayasinghe of Faculty of Applied Sciences and Dr. R.A.N. Ranatunga and Dr S. Bowatte; the Act. Dean, of Faculty of Medicine for the suggestions and mediations during the project. Mr Don Chithrananda; the Registrar, and Mr U. Dharmadasa; the Bursar swiftly coordinated to provide support necessary for the project. Mr Saman Jayamaha helped in logistics.



News coverage by ITN:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysdLltKb05E&feature=youtu.be&t=1404>

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