



# FACULTY NEWSLETTER

Volume 04: Issue 01, July/ August 2018

“  
EDUCATION  
IS THE MOST  
POWERFUL  
WEAPON WHICH  
YOU CAN USE  
TO CHANGE  
THE WORLD  
”

- Nelson Mandela -

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Right Start –  
Study Start  
2018-02

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## KEY NEWS

# RIGHT PATH TO RIGHT START

## 2018-02 Study Start Program

*Creating a culture of readiness for  
academic success...*

The Study Start program at ACBT is a series of workshops designed to enhance and strengthen skills, knowledge and leadership capabilities of freshers' to engage with academic work.

This approach will help students to navigate successfully through all levels of study at ACBT.

Educational researchers have found that positive student-faculty interactions enhance both social

and academic skills of all students. The first year at university is critical and it is important to strengthen the bond between students and faculty advisory as early as possible. A successful Study Start-up is an essential first step for students to get into the right path to right start.

This realization has inspired ACBT to provide a framework of services to support freshers' in a new look at 2018-02 Study Start program. The new study start program was launched prior to the commencement of 2018-02.

The new program was designed with interesting topics which are focused on all

aspects of competencies in life of a student including Academic skills, English Language, Information Technology, and Physical and Mental relaxing activities. An eminent panel of experienced resource individuals conducted the workshops.

We are already seeing signs that this integrated, academically grounded approach is significantly benefiting our students and helping to prepare them for academic achievements in future.



**MORE  
CLICKS  
FROM PG-3**

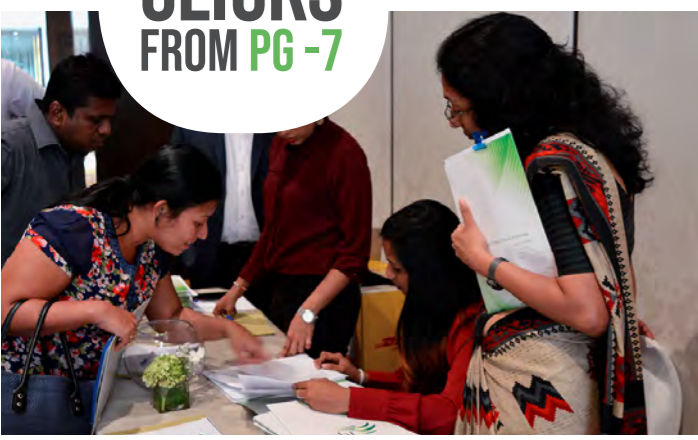


# OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST ROAD SHOW IN COLOMBO

**A** CBT organized an awareness programme on Occupational English Test on Monday 27th August at Movenpick Hotel, Colombo-03. The participants were educated on the new test format, scores and resources available. The session was conducted by Ms. Afsaneh Rashidi, Business Development Manager of OET, Australia and Mr. Aashish Bhushan, Senior Manager- Business Development (South Asia), Cambridge Assessment English; to healthcare professionals in Sri Lanka. OET is an assessment to test the English Language, delivered by Cambridge University, UK and Boxhill Institute, Australia. This is widely recognized primarily in countries as Australia and New Zealand for skilled migration, higher education and career prospects.



  
**MORE  
CLICKS  
FROM PG-7**



## GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTS & PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT ACBT

**D**epartment of English at ACBT offers one of the largest portfolios of English Language proficiency examinations and programmes in the country providing students with a range of choices for their English Language assessments. For those who plan to migrate, live and work in an English speaking country or have applied to an English speaking academic institution, it is essential they prove their ability to use English Language as a proficient non-native English speaker. The Department of English at ACBT is an authorized test center for IELTS, TOEFL, OET, CAE, PTE and TKT. Also, conducts preparation courses and one day workshops on all of these for candidates who require practice and training on their respective examinations.

### IELTS – International English Language Testing System

IELTS is the most popular English language proficiency test for higher education and immigration applicants. IELTS test is accepted by many academic institutions in the UK, the USA, Australia and Canada. The course duration can be selected from either 16-hour Advanced courses or 32-hour Preparation courses.

### TOEFL-Test of English as a Foreign Language

TOEFL is the second major English language proficiency test which is geared towards candidates applying for English-speaking academic institutions. This is specifically a preferred qualification by American institutions.

### OET - Occupational English Test

The Occupational English Test is an international English language proficiency test for the healthcare sector. The OET tests the language and communication skills of healthcare professionals who want to register and practice in an English-speaking environment. ACBT is the only recognized test center for OET in Sri Lanka.

### C1 Advanced- Cambridge Advanced English

Cambridge English is backed by teaching and research from Cambridge University and is aligned with the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) standards. The English Proficiency Diploma that ACBT conducts in order to prepare students for C1 Advanced is a value adding dual qualification where the student receives two certificates: one provided by ACBT it-self and the other awarded by Cambridge University.

### PTE- Pearson Test of English

The Pearson Test of English is a computer-based English proficiency test aimed at non-native speakers of English looking to study abroad. It tests listening, speaking, reading and writing. Since this is a computer based test it has no potential for examiner bias.

### TKT – Teaching Knowledge Test

This is a test suitable for teachers of various disciplines teaching at varied levels. It is an internationally recognized qualification that proves the teaching abilities of a wide spectrum. ACBT offers training

programmes and workshops for potential candidates of TKT. ACBT also introduced a new Business English course to support working people to communicate effectively in their working environments. This programme will eventually lead participants to the well-recognized Cambridge BEC qualification. Students who join the various courses offered by the Department of English are taught and trained by lecturers with years of expertise in teaching and examining. The small group classes also add value to the learning experience with interaction, individual attention and exam-oriented course structure. In addition, a Resource Room where students can engage in self-learning for these examinations and online training facilities for some exams are unique opportunities that distinguish the English programmes offered by Department of English at ACBT.

## PROFESSOR MEL ZIMAN

GUEST LECTURE ON BIOMARKERS FOR CANCER BY ECU



**E**CU Professor Mel Ziman from the School of Medical and Health Sciences visited ACBT on 17th of August 2018 and presented a lecture on her research based on Biomarkers of Cancer. Her areas of expertise include Melanoma and Huntington's disease. She is the head of the ECU Melanoma Research Group.

Professor Mel Ziman and her team have developed multiple



blood tests for the diagnosis and prognosis of melanoma in collaboration with world leading clinicians, researchers and biotechnology companies. The tests are the subject of patent applications and have been, in

some cases, adopted for routine clinical testing in Western Australia.

The lecture was attended by the senior faculty members from the Colombo Medical faculty and other interested medical professionals from the areas of biochemistry, biomedical sciences and pathology. Her lecture on Biomarkers for Cancer generated pronounced interest and discussion owing to the innovative nature of her specialty.



# INDUCTION FOR LECTURERS

An Induction programme was conducted for the new lecturers who joined ACBT for 2018-02 on the 30th of June 2018 by the Academic Department. The session provided the new lecturers with detailed information about ACBT, its regulations and policies and the study programs offered. This helped the new lecturers in understanding and assimilating the new working culture.



# FIRST AID TRAINING SESSION FOR STAFF

As a part of ACBT occupational health and safety strategy, the first aid training session was organized to build greater awareness on first aid among staff. The Training session was conducted by the First aid instructor from Red Cross Society, Sri Lanka. The training provided an excellent general grounding on first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to save a life at an emergency. Thirty members participated this session from different departments at ACBT.



The Instructor from Red Cross Society conducting cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

# ACBT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN SRI LANKA

**A**ustralian College of Business and Technology (ACBT), the well respected and long established higher education provider in Sri Lanka celebrated its 20 years of operation in 2018. The 20th anniversary celebration was held on the 29th of October at Park Street Mews with the participation of stakeholders and well-wishers of ACBT.

The welcome address at the ceremony was delivered by the Mr. Erath Karunaratne, Executive director of ACBT who thanked Navitas and other partners for the strong collaboration of two decades while the other dignitaries who addressed the gathering were Prof. John Wood; Managing director Navitas, Mr. David Buckingham, CEO, Navitas Ltd.,



# ACBT PROUDLY RECEIVED THE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION FROM AACSB EDUCATION ALLIANCE

In many ways, ACBT has enjoyed much success over the past years as an educational service provider in Sri Lanka. It is in excellent shape as we entered year 2018, in keeping up with leading international education standards to demonstrate ongoing commitment to high quality international education programs.

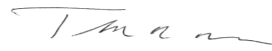
ACBT proudly embraced the membership certification from the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) Education Alliance.



THE ASSOCIATION TO ADVANCE COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS OF BUSINESS  
CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

**Australian College of Business and Technology**

May 2018

  
Tom R. Robinson  
President and Chief Executive Officer

  
Caryn Beck-Dudley  
Chair, Board of Directors

# ACBT WON THE BRAND LEADERSHIP AWARD 2018



**C**ongratulations to all ACBT staff members for winning the Brand Leadership Award. All the credit goes to the ACBT staff for their tremendous support, hard work and dedication provided in achieving this Prestigious award.

This award seeks to recognize and appreciate the innovative and effective marketing techniques in Sri Lanka. The preferences of the consumers were also considered. Felicitations ACBT!





**O**n 14th August 2018, ACBT held its Graduation Ceremony at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH).

More than 300 students received their accolades for completing the degree and diploma programmes offered by University of Edith Cowan, Australia.

This occasion was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest His Excellency Mr. Bryce Hutchesson, High Commissioner of Australia in Sri Lanka and Guest of Honor Professor Steve Chapman, Vice Chancellor of Edith Cowan University.

Moreover, the event was lightened up by the presence of the Faculty Members from Edith Cowan University. This comprised of Professor Daryoush Habibi, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Sri Lanka Campus and Executive Dean of School of Engineering; Professor Andrew Woodward, Executive Dean of School of Science; Associate Professor Helen Vella Bonavita, Dean of International Relations; Mr. Krishna Prasad, Associate

Dean and Director-International of School of Business and Law; and Mr. Jake Garman, Dean of International Business Operations. Edith Cowan College provides the foundation for the students to qualify for the undergraduate degrees was represented by Mr. Malcolm Baigent- College Director and Principal and Mrs. Alison Hiscox-Academic Director. In affiliation with ACBT, Edith Cowan University has been offering undergraduate and post graduate degrees in Sri Lanka since 1998. This has

# GRADUATION CEREMONY 2018

contributed in qualifying large number of students to pursue higher studies in Australia or obtain an Australian degree certification in Sri Lanka.

ACBT has consecutively maintained the best standards of international higher education and thus, the trusted brand for Australian education in Sri Lanka.

Each year ACBT delivers quality education to a growing number of students enrolling themselves in the / different programmes (Business, Computing and Engineering) awarded by

Edith Cowan College and Edith Cowan University. The students were awarded with gold, silver and bronze awards for their outstanding and exceptional performance. Mrs. Zainab Ahamed was awarded as the Deans' List Student of the year for her excellent overall high achievement in the degree programme.

The ACBT management was represented by; Mr. Erath Karunaratne, Executive Director; Mr. Krishan Senaratna, Chief Operating Officer. The Academic department was represented by; Dr. Chandana Aluthge, Principal; Dr. Wasanthi Madurapperuma, Associate Dean and Mr. Sunimal Wickramasinghe, Deputy Principal along with the academic and non-academic staff members of ACBT.

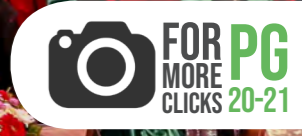
This significant night proved the remarkable education service of ACBT and appreciated the hard work and effort of students who graduated at the Graduation Ceremony of 2018 with unparalleled achievements.

Edith Cowan College and Edith Cowan University.

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This significant night proved the remarkable education service of ACBT and appreciated the hard work and effort of students who graduated at the Graduation Ceremony of 2018 with unparalleled achievements.





**MORE  
CLICKS**  
FROM PG-19



# BIG AUSTRALIAN

The Student Services International Education Unit of ACBT held BIG AUSTRALIAN event on the 12th and 13th of September at ACBT. The main goal was to provide guidance for students who were interested in pursuing higher studies in Australia.

This was an opportunity for the participants to get comprehensive information on the programs offered. Moreover, to explore different options available as many colleges and Universities were present on the two days.

The event also provided information on the following aspects:

- Course Advice
- Application Processing
- Student Visa Processing
- Accommodation Assistance
- Pre departure seminars
- Scholarships



# ACBT THE BEST IELTS TEST CENTRE OF THE YEAR 2017/2018

ACBT won the premium award for 2017/2018 at the British Council IELTS Awards Night held on 14th August at Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo.

This was awarded under the criteria of quality of curricula of IELTS training courses, the service provided, marketing and brand compliance, island wide reach and the administrative compliance as test center.

ACBT at all times provide an exclusive service to its candidates in terms of training and as a test center.

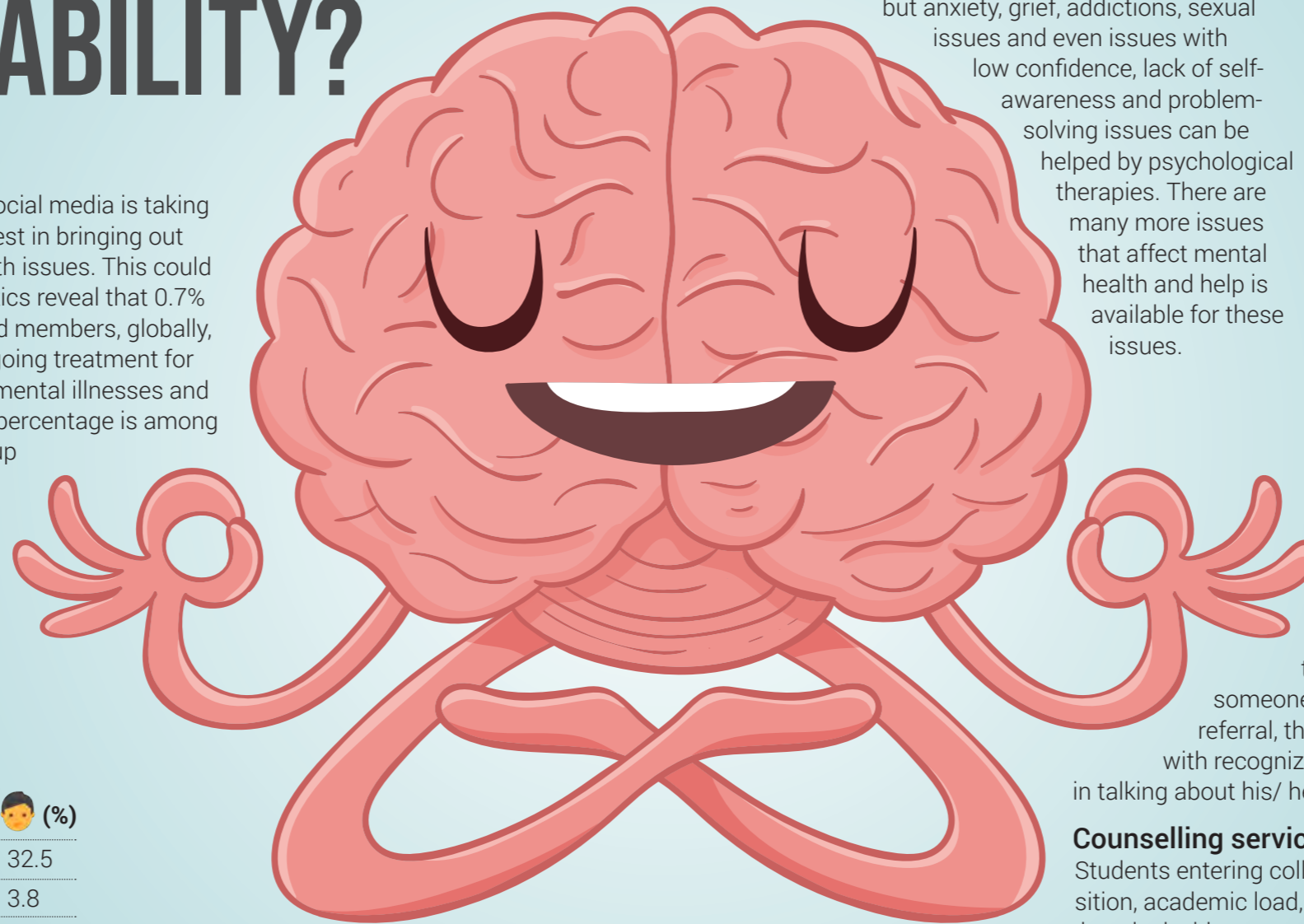


# MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA OR VULNERABILITY?

While we do not hesitate to go to the doctor when we don't physically feel well, how many of us get help for our mental health status? Our mental status is only secondary to our physical status of health as emphasized by the WHO definition of health: "State of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"

Mental wellbeing is becoming a significantly talked about topic in the world and awareness is being created through many sources. Newspapers, magazines and

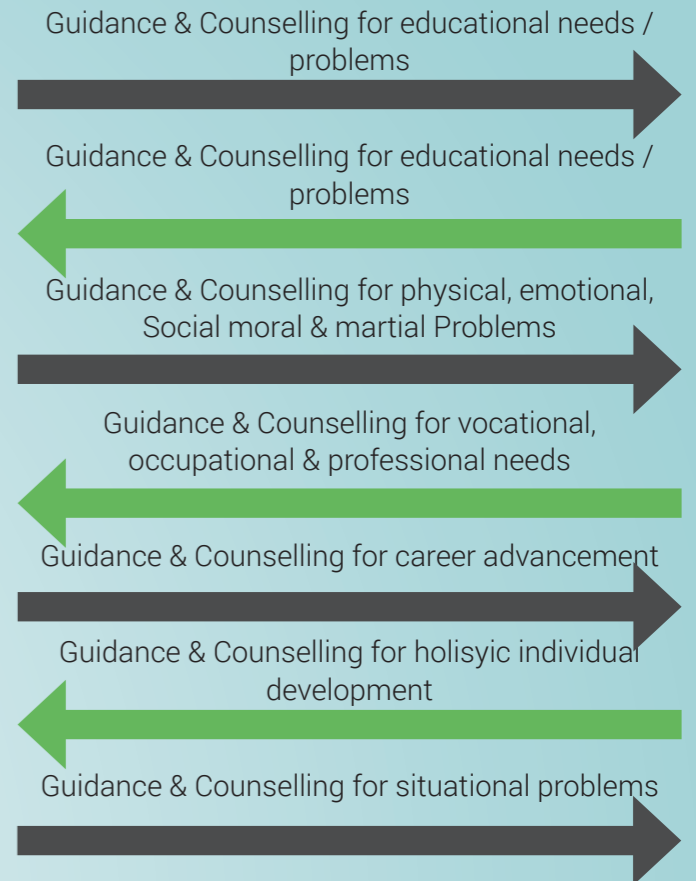
especially social media is taking a keen interest in bringing out mental health issues. This could be as statistics reveal that 0.7% of household members, globally, were undergoing treatment for any kind of mental illnesses and the highest percentage is among the age group of 20 years and older (SLDHS, 2016).



## What falls under mental health issues?

"I am depressed" is a very common phrase used to indicate low moods. It is the extreme end of low moods that goes along with many other signs that would be diagnosed with clinical depression. Clinical depression needs to be treated with medication as well as psychological therapies. Psychiatrists would help with prescribing drugs and may also help with the psychological therapies. Psychologists and psychological counsellors are exclusively trained to treat with psychological therapies. Not just depression or low mood, but anxiety, grief, addictions, sexual issues and even issues with low confidence, lack of self-awareness and problem-solving issues can be helped by psychological therapies. There are many more issues that affect mental health and help is available for these issues.

## Scope of Guidance and Counselling



## Therapy takes time

Therapy is not fast acting as medication but is as effective. Most therapeutic sessions are built on the first session, where it is all about building a rapport and finding out what the client wants out of the therapy. Clients often realize after the first session that therapy can be quite effective and helpful. Still, making the first appointment and then turning up for it is a difficult task. Unless there is someone who encourages and checks up on it or gives a direct referral, the task can be quite daunting. The stigma associated with recognizing a mental health issue or the vulnerability one feels in talking about his/ her mental status has to be recognized and understood.

## Counselling services at ACBT

Students entering college meet a lot of difficulties like coping with the transition, academic load, different social circles, etc. After the first semester, they deal with more academic related stress and other personal stressors that comes along with part and parcel of life. Sometimes we have the skills to cope with it and sometimes we may have difficulty in finding the way. The door is always open to all who may want to find their way back.

## Mental illnesses being treated in Sri Lanka

Mental illness being treated	👩 (%)	👨 (%)
Depressive	40.2	32.5
Anxiety disorder	9.7	3.8
OCD	0.7	2.6
Alcohol dependence/ abuse	0.0	2.2
Substance dependence	0.0	1.5
Psychosis	18.0	15.1
Bipolar disorder	4.1	4.6
Others	9.9	7.4
Don't know	16.1	23.2

\*Source: SLDHS, 2016

Find the door by calling  
Ms. Fazliya Hassan on **0726990777**  
or emailing **Fazliya.Hassan@acbt.lk**.

# FRESHERS' DAY - 2018

The Students' Activity Council of ACBT partnered with the Management of ACBT and organized the Fresher's Day for the semester of 2018-02 on the 27th of June 2018 at Moors Grounds. Freshers' from Foundation to Diploma participated in this fun filled event. The sole purpose of Freshers' Day is to welcome newcomers and to encourage their creative impulses in boosting confidence.

Also, a mini cricket tournament was held to bring out the sporting abilities of Freshers' which added more value and fullness for the Freshers' day.



# TRIPLE THREAT 3X3 BASKETBALL CHALLENGE TROPHY 2018

The 3x3 Basketball Tournament was held on the 19th of August 2018 for the die-hard basketball fanatics. Organized by the Students' Council of ACBT which was open to all Private Universities in Sri Lanka. Forty-three teams participated in the tournament showcasing their best skills. The tournament highlighted the importance of team work and trust. All the teams were backed up and motivated by their cheering teams. It created a platform to promote a better relationship among the Private Universities and encouraged team spirit throughout. The Boys' Champion Trophy was won by Wisdom College and the Girls' Champion Trophy by APIIT college.





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