



REPORT ON NF AMT-POGO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2017

Supervisor's Report (Host Institution)

Name of Trainee: Mr Hashan Niroshana KOKUHENNADIGE
Dr Upul Premarathne

Supervisor (Parent Institution):

Supervisor (Host Institution): Dr Andy Rees **Dates of Training:** 02/09/17 2/12/17

Subject of Training: Multidisciplinary training

1) Please provide a brief description of the activities during the training period.

The training programme was organised to provide familiarity across a spectrum of analytical procedures:

1) Pre-cruise preparation: familiarisation with Plymouth Marine Laboratory procedures including health and safety protocols and responsibilities. Medical & dental checks, sea survival training, packing and loading of equipment.

2) At sea Hashan was involved in four daily routines

- a) performing incubation experiments to determine rates of nitrogen and carbon fixation
- b) collection and preservation of zooplankton samples
- c) collection and preservation of samples for later DNA analysis
- d) deployment of radiosonde-weather balloons

3) In addition he spent time with other groups to gain some experience of: dissolved nutrient analyses, oxygen analyses, use of ^{14}C for primary production estimates, deployment of optical instrumentation.

4) On return from sea Hashan prepared samples for stable isotope analyses and had limited training in the use of stable isotope mass spectrometry.

2) Please provide your comments on the performance of the trainee.

Hashan requested this training programme to gain experience of oceanographic procedures that he could apply to his teaching and research in Sri Lanka. I believe that he threw himself whole heartedly into this challenge and hopefully he feels that he achieved his aims. Hashan proved to be dedicated to each of his roles and performed them well. He was strict in his delivery of procedures and well organised in the recording of information.

I wish him well with his future career as he has positioned himself to be familiar with a whole host of skills that were not previously available to him.

3) Is this exchange likely to lead to future collaboration with the trainee's parent institution?

Hopefully yes. Hashan will aim to launch research endeavours in Sri Lankan waters by monopolising on his experience during AMT. I have agreed to provide my advice and will further seek funding with which we may be able to cooperate into the future.

4) Please provide your comments on the Fellowship Programme.

This was an excellent example of how the fellowship programme should work. A motivated fellow who is now able to translate his experience into improving the capacity of his home institution. Hashan has already incorporated his new found knowledge into lectures to his university students and is working to further this to research efforts.

Please return completed form by e-mail to: pogoadmin@pml.ac.uk