

Report on the visit by  
Prof Satish Kumar,  
Vice President Niigata University to the  
University of Peradeniya on  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2026



# Meeting with Vice Chancellor

Prof Satish Kumar, Vice President (Research) of Niigata University, visited the University of Peradeniya on 4 January 2026, accompanied by seven members of the delegation. The delegation met with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof Terrance Madujith, at the Vice Chancellor's Office.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, the Director of the International Relations Office, Liaison Professors (India and Sri Lanka) of Niigata University, academic staff of the Department of Geology, and other senior university officials.



During the meeting, the Vice Chancellor provided a detailed overview of the impact of Cyclone Ditwah on the University of Peradeniya. He described the extensive damage to infrastructure and highlighted that this event represented the largest natural disaster in Sri Lanka in terms of infrastructure damage and geographical extent. The Vice Chancellor reflected on lessons learned from the disaster, particularly the importance of preparedness and disaster-resilient planning.

He also emphasized the long-standing and close relationship between the University of Peradeniya and Niigata University, which has been nurtured over many years through academic collaboration and mutual trust. On behalf of the University of Peradeniya, the Vice Chancellor expressed heartfelt gratitude to the President of Niigata University, Prof Ushiki Tatsuo, and to all members of the Niigata University community for their generous voluntary contribution toward the disaster recovery efforts of the University of Peradeniya.

## **Presentation on the Sister-Link Programme and Voluntary Contribution**

Prof Sajjiv Ariyasinghe, Liaison Professor of Niigata University (Sri Lanka), delivered a presentation outlining the history and achievements of the Niigata–Peradeniya Sister Link Programme. The presentation focused particularly on the voluntary contribution made by the staff of Niigata University in response to the cyclone disaster.

Photographs of all contributing members were displayed, and special mention was made of those who had previously visited the University of Peradeniya, highlighting the strong people-to-people connections that underpin the institutional partnership. Prof Ariyasinghe expressed sincere appreciation to President Ushiki Tatsuo sensei, Executive Vice President Someya Toshiyuki sensei, and the Manager of International Partnerships for their personal commitment and efforts in coordinating this meaningful contribution of JPY 403,000.

[Presentation during Visit by Satish sensei Jan 2025.pptx](#)

## **Proposal for Future Collaboration**

The next presentation was delivered by Prof Lilantha Samaranayake, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, who proposed the establishment of a Disaster Management Research Collaboration between Niigata University and the University of Peradeniya. This proposal was presented as a forward-looking initiative arising from shared experiences and complementary expertise in disaster-related research.

## **Address by Prof Satish Kumar, Vice President of Niigata University**

Prof Satish Kumar thanked the Vice Chancellor and the University of Peradeniya for accommodating the meeting on a Sunday. He conveyed that President Ushiki sensei had been deeply concerned upon learning of the extent of the damage caused by Cyclone Ditwah. Prof Satish Kumar reaffirmed Niigata University's solidarity with the University of Peradeniya and indicated that he would explore the feasibility of establishing a formal disaster management research collaboration between the two institutions.



The meeting was chaired by Prof Sanjeeva Malawiarachchi, Director of the International Relations Office and a long-standing collaborator of Prof Satish Kumar. Two Liaison Professors of Niigata University were present: Prof Sajeew (India) and Prof Sajjiv Ariyasinghe (Sri Lanka).

At the conclusion of the meeting, Prof Satish Kumar formally handed over the symbolic disaster relief donation from President Ushiki sensei to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.



In return, the Vice Chancellor presented Prof Satish Kumar with a letter of gratitude addressed to President Ushiki sensei, conveying appreciation to all members of the Niigata University community who contributed to the relief effort.



Following the meeting, the delegation was shown the proximity of the university to the Mahaweli River and the areas affected by flooding, providing first-hand insight into the disaster's impact. The visit concluded with lunch hosted by the Department of Geology.

## **Professor Sajjiv Ariyasinghe**

Liaison Professor Niigata University 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026