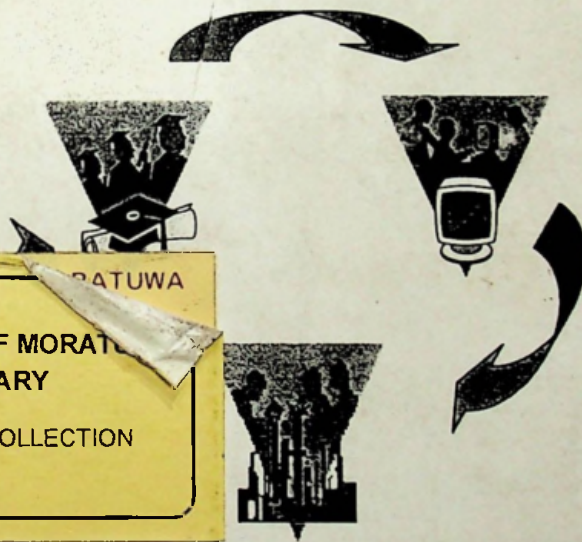
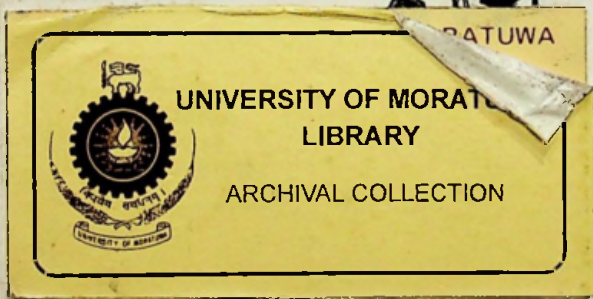


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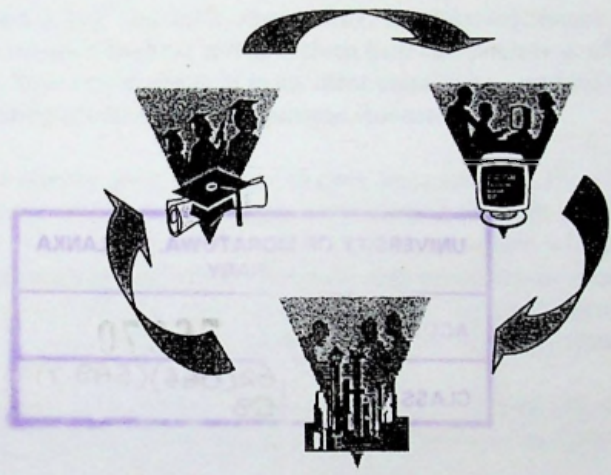
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The proceedings comprise papers presented at the 7th Symposium on Research for Industry organised by the Engineering Research Unit of the University of Moratuwa and held in the premises of the University in November 2001.

The views and findings presented in the papers are those of the authors, and do not reflect those of the Engineering Research Unit, Moratuwa.

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PREFACE

We present in this volume another collection of research from the Engineering Faculty at the University of Moratuwa. We have close to forty papers from a wide variety of disciplines. We trust that the symposium and this publication will help disseminate this research – this is one of the main objectives of the Engineering Research Unit.

One of the features of this year's proceedings is that many of the co-authors are research students at the University. The Engineering Faculty as a whole has been trying to promote the idea of full time research and we now have a growing community of research students. We hope that they will be spurred onto greater heights through seeing their names and work in print here. I hope also that the rest of us, i.e. the more "longstanding" university community, will take cognisance of the role played by the full time research students and give them their due place (e.g. office space, computers, books etc.). Research students in many other countries enjoy facilities similar to staff members, including access to Senior Common Rooms!

We welcome once again our visitors from industry. Here too, the Engineering Faculty has been seeking co-operation with industry through consultative committees in areas such as curriculum development. Your collaboration with us in developing some of our research ideas into useful products and processes is something that the Engineering Research Unit will value in particular. Our recurrent theme of "Research for Industry" will be a misnomer unless there is university-industry partnership.

I conclude by thanking everyone who has contributed towards making this symposium a reality, in particular my hardworking colleagues in the ERU.

Professor Priyan Dias
Chairman, Engineering Research Unit
(priyan@civil.mrt.ac.lk)

November 2001

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