



Dr. G.P.T.S. Hemakumara is a Senior Lecturer (Grade 1) in the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. He completed his PhD in the field of Geographic Information System at the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in 2015. Dr. Hemakumara first obtained a BA Honours degree in Geography from the University of Colombo in 1996, then a Master's Degree in Remote Sensing and GIS from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok in 2001 and followed up with a Postgraduate Diploma in Town and Country Planning from the University of Moratuwa in 2010. Before joining the University of Ruhuna as a Senior Lecturer, he served as an Assistant Director in the GIS section of the Urban Development Authority where he obtained considerable field practice and experience in city planning. He is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka. His current research relates to the development of a Spatial Model to explain the phenomenon of low lying areas experiencing rapid household emergence, leading to chaotic suburbanization. Several articles pertaining to his research have been published in International Academic Journals. Dr. Hemakumara has accumulated considerable foreign experience by working and training in Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, India, Nepal, Singapore and Indonesia. When he was in Thailand, Dr. Hemakumara worked as a Research Associate at the Geoinformatics Center, Asian Institute of Technology, during the period 2001/2002. Currently he is the coordinator of an international collaboration program between University Sains Malaysia and the University of Ruhuna. In addition to his academic duties Dr. Hemakumara has been involved in some national level projects. He served as a Technical Committee Member of Mapping for the 2011 Census, and played a role in the Environmentally Sensitive Area Mapping Project of the Central Environmental Authority. He has also held various administrative positions in the University by serving as IRQUE project coordinator for Faculty of HSS, as IDAS activity Coordinator, as Chairperson of Quality Assurance Cell (QAC), as Coordinator of ITU/HSS, and as Deputy Proctor. Over the last 10 years he has attended numerous training workshops related to Quality Assurance.