

## Message from the FOUNTAIN Coordinator

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first edition of the FOUNTAIN newsletter, which has been prepared for the project called "Fostering Sustainable University-Industry Techno-Entrepreneurial Collaborations and Innovations in Asian Universities." The initiative is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. It is clear in today's age of economic globalization that university education produces few research and innovation results, has little impact on industry and the community, and lacks well-developed cooperation between universities and industries.

Therefore, universities and enterprises have different expectations for collaboration results, which are further exacerbated by differences in organizational and cultural factors. These disparities provide significant obstacles for forming alliances, resulting in dissatisfaction and a diminished will to maintain cooperative efforts for all parties concerned. Moreover, the rigidity of institutions, together with their hierarchical communication methods, bureaucratic obstacles, and insufficient focus on fostering a culture that prioritizes achieving results, has hindered the effectiveness of collaborative endeavours.

The FOUNTAIN initiative aims to address the lack of strong collaborations between Asian universities and industries. It will primarily focus on improving students' job prospects, incorporating blended learning methods, fostering invention and innovation, promoting techno-entrepreneurial skills, developing curricula, conducting interdisciplinary research, and implementing other related projects. The project aims to identify and document deficiencies in University-Industry Collaboration (UIC) by conducting needs assessments in cooperation with partners in Thailand and Sri Lanka. The FOUNTAIN initiative seeks to synchronize the goals of the industry with the interests of the nation, namely in the field of agro-industries. The objective is to enhance university curricula by incorporating comprehensive industrial training programmes, strengthen the relationship between universities and businesses,

establish a collaborative network in the agro-industry sector involving both university and industry stakeholders, facilitate the implementation of ideas, and promote the establishment of new business ventures. The initiative seeks to utilize the current knowledge resources available at universities in order to foster invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the planned center of excellence in the invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship aims to enhance the connections among universities, industry, and research bodies. This cooperative endeavour seeks to address the requirements of individuals who have completed their studies, scholars, agriculturalists, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), and other sectors within the nation and the wider area.

Moreover, entrepreneurship has gained significant prominence in the business domain due to its substantial contributions to the economies of Asian nations and European countries. The analysis, absorption, and implementation of new technologies present difficulties and also prospects for entrepreneurship, impacting virtually every sector. Many modern studies emphasize the need of considering the ethical and sustainability components of entrepreneurial ventures, especially while seeking financial success by using constantly evolving technology. The importance of techno-entrepreneurial education is being recognized by higher education authorities globally and governments, which invest in entrepreneurship education. The ongoing argument shows that technology-empowered entrepreneurship may revitalize and restructure society and economies. This newsletter will help the project's goals of active, sustainable university-industry techno-entrepreneurial interactions and innovations by sharing knowledge to all stakeholders. Let's handle present requirements before planning for the future. Congratulations!

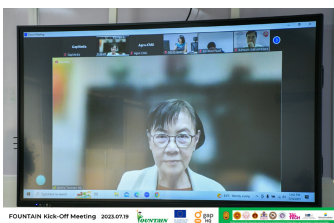
**Prof. Guttila Yugantha Jayasinghe**  
Head, Department of Agricultural Engineering and  
Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture,  
University of Ruhuna



## FOUNTAIN Kick-Off Meeting



The steering committee of FOUNTAIN, comprising representatives from 10 European and Asian universities, convened on July 19th and 20th, 2023, at gapHQ, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka, to formally launch the new project. The following events took place: an introduction to the FOUNTAIN project, outlining its central theme; the launch of the FOUNTAIN website; discussions on the project description, goals, aims, objectives, scope, project organization chart, stakeholders, and target groups; as well as roles and responsibilities, and the overall work plan. The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Ravi Liyanage, Co-founder and current Chairman/CEO of the Raigam Group. Subsequently, an introductory session for all seven work packages was conducted.



## NU FOUNTAIN Engaged in ERASMUS+ Projects Cluster Meeting, Bolstering International Collaboration in Higher Education



On October 2-3, 2023, NU FOUNTAIN team participated in the ERASMUS+ Projects Cluster Meeting hosted at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand. Distinguished academics and industry professionals who are committed to enhance education and encouraging cooperation through ERASMUS+ projects were in attendance at this high-profile event. Nearly 45 distinguished individuals from Laos, Vietnam, Brussels, and Thailand came together as delegates. The implementation of best practices and the exploration of collaborative ideas, such as partnerships, problem-solving initiatives, and the embrace of innovative applications, will undoubtedly guide our future endeavors. These efforts fuel our passion to create a better world through education.



## Call for Papers For 'The Colombo Conference'. 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on University-Industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development (ICSD 2024)

**The Colombo Conference**  
First International Conference on  
**University-Industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development**  
Date - 16<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Venue - GAP HQ, Colombo 07

**CO-CHAIRS OF CONFERENCE**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Prof. Bhanu Dasariyake, Prof. S. Nipanya Jayasinghe, Prof. Rajani Senarath, Prof. Dilani Amarasinga, Assoc. Prof. Sirajul Haque, Prof. Anura Kumara, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sathya Srikanth, Prof. Lene LI, Prof. Latha Chandrasekaran, Dr. Vishan Yajjane, Dr. Prabha Subasinghe, Ms. Reshmi Chandrasekaran, Ms. Lathika Chandrasekaran

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For more information :- <https://colomboconference.org>



ICSD 2024 aims to promote sustainable solutions, innovative technologies, and entrepreneurial strategies in agro-industries. It will enhance university curricula, strengthen business links, and foster invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship by supporting business startups and promoting environmental conservation. The selected leading papers of the Colombo Conference (ICSD 2024) will be published by Springer Nature under the book series 'Proceedings in Technology Transfer'. All other accepted papers will be published in a special volume of proceedings with an international standard book number (ISSN).

### FOUNTAIN collaboratively supported in organizing the SECRA Engagement Day for budding entrepreneurs at the ICSBE 2023

At the Kandy Conference, Earl's Regency hotel on 16th Dec 2023, this event was mainly organized by the University of Peradeniya's Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation, and Technology Transfer Office (BLII-TTO) in collaboration with the Universities of Ruhuna and Sri Jaywardenepura



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### NU Online Workshop on 10-12 Jan 2024

Naresuan University warmly invites partner universities to participate in this upcoming online workshop, an enriching event poised to facilitate transformative collaborations and innovations in the higher education sector.

Fostering sustainable university-industry techno-entrepreneurial collaborations and innovations in Asian universities

**FOUNTAIN**  
NU Online Workshop  
10th – 12th January 2024

Scan to see agenda

Hosted by Faculty of Engineering, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok, Thailand

SPONSORS: SECRA, FOUNDTAIN, KMITARACHESIT, TUB, UJ, SRI LANKA TECH, PPSRI, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF BUSINESS, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF GREEN TECHNOLOGY, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF TRANSPORT AND TECHNOLOGY, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF POLYTECHNIC, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF WELFARE STUDIES, SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY OF YACHTING AND MARITIME STUDIES

### Calling business proposals for the EU University-Industry Engagement Camp

The Horizon team will organize an entrepreneurial camp on January 26, 2024, in the KCM Auditorium. The aim is to build awareness among participants about University-Industry collaboration for innovation and to select innovative ideas and business plans from

ARE YOU READY TO PROPEL YOUR INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT TO NEW HEIGHTS? JOIN US AT THE UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT CAMP WHERE ACADEMIA MEETS INDUSTRY INNOVATION!

ON FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY 2024  
KCM BUILDING HOST

FROM 8:30 AM TO 4 PM

This unique event aims to explore entrepreneurial know-how, fostering collaboration between industry pioneers and university counterparts. Be a part of this quest to broaden the horizons of the industry-university interaction arena contributing to the knowledge economy and advancing technology transfer capabilities.

**Who will Attend?**

- Industry Professionals
- Academics and Researchers
- University Students

For more information on submitting the business proposals and joining the event online, please visit: <https://fountain.lk/>

**Organizing Committee:**

Keynote Speaker: H.E. Dr. Rajan Perera, Director, Sri Lanka Engineering Standards Development Authority

Chairman: H.E. Dr. Anura Kumara, Managing Director, Aard Business Advisory

Project Manager: Prof. S. Nipanya Jayasinghe, FOUNDTAIN

Dean: Prof. S. Chandrasekaran, Faculty of Engineering, Naresuan University

Contact Us: [fountain.horizon@gmail.com](mailto:fountain.horizon@gmail.com)

entrepreneurial students interested in establishing startup companies. Plans should be submitted on or before January 15, 2024, to the following email address: [fountain.horizon@gmail.com](mailto:fountain.horizon@gmail.com). Visit the FOUNTAIN website for more details.

Submit upcoming news to the newsletter via email: [fountain@eng.pdn.ac.lk](mailto:fountain@eng.pdn.ac.lk) or WhatsApp: +94 0701249883

Scan for more information



[www.fountain.lk](http://www.fountain.lk)

Consortium of 10 HEIs from Estonia, Lithuania, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Thailand funded by EU Erasmus+

