

## Special SECRA session on The International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment 2022 (ICSBE)

The 13th International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment was held at Earl's Regency Hotel, Kandy, Sri Lanka from 16 -18 December 2022, as the next in line of a highly successful series of conferences held since December 2010. The Conference featured presentations by authors of all accepted papers and keynote lecturers. General and plenary sessions were accompanied by workshops and technical sessions.

The Special Session on SECRA included the official launch of the project's Moodle platform and was held on 17th December 2022 at the Mall Hall of Earl's Regency Hotel as a hybrid event. The University of Peradeniya Group, along with the partnered universities, launched the Official SECRA Moodle platform at this session followed by five abstract presentations by the partnered institutions. This session was chaired by Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga, Global Disaster Resilience Centre, University of Huddersfield and Prof. Champa Nawarathna, University of Ruhuna.

At the introduction of the session, Prof. Jörgen Sparf stated that cooperation of university and industry and inculcating entrepreneurial skills are a timely concern in the University system. Prof. Sparf also provided an overview of university enterprise collaboration in developed regions, highlighting its impact to both universities and industries.

Prof. Evangelia Petridou from the Risk and Crisis Research Center of Mid Sweden University presented the outcomes of the Social Network Analysis produced for the SECRA Project. The study has adopted a network based approach focused on relations and actors/institutions related to university-enterprise collaborations.

The SECRA moodle platform was launched by the invited guests, Emeritus Prof. Nandasiri Weerasinghe and Senior Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake. who are also among the senior academics in the SECRA project. The UEC Compass tool was also introduced to the audience by the Prof. Jörgen Sparf and Prof. Lasith Gunawardena, and requested all the partners to participate by using the compass tool and promoting it within their respective institutes.

At the final stage of the session, five abstracts were presented by the partner institutes with regards to their respective work carried out as part of the project. This included a presentation from Evangelia Petridou (Mid Sweden University - University-Enterprise Collaborations: A Social Network Perspective, Perceptions and Experiences of Community Stakeholders on an Institutional UEC Program (Philippine Normal University)), Success Factors for University Industry Technology Transfers: Evidence from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka (University of Sri Jayawardenapura), Role of University Enterprise Collaboration (UEC) in Sri Lanka (University of Peradeniya) and A University-Enterprise Collaborative Framework for Disaster Resilience (University of Huddersfield, UK). At the end of the presentation the session was summarised by the session chairs and appreciated the progress of the work by partner universities, which have provided key insights to the overall project.



## Webinar series by - The Mapua Malayan Colleges Laguna (MCL)

The Mapua Malayan Colleges Laguna SECRA Team conducted a series of SECRA-related webinars and meeting to address the project's objectives. These were carried out to: foster a better alignment between the interest of enterprises and the national public interest, especially in the field of disaster resilience; boost entrepreneurship and innovation in the selected HEIs by creating opportunities for collaboration with enterprise actors; and foster appropriate, inclusive solutions for the promotion of gender equity and diversity. These activities involved the different stakeholders from academe, private businesses, local and national government, and non-government sector. It is envisioned that the outputs of these activities will form the foundation of further collaborative projects and research for MCL, as well as the creation of a University-Enterprise Collaboration research framework that can be shared with other HEIs in the region as they promote disaster resilience, entrepreneurship and innovation.

### 1. Gender Dimensions of Disaster Risk and Resilience

SECRA-MCL (Malayan Colleges Laguna) spearheaded a webinar entitled Gender Dimensions of Disaster Risk and Resilience on 06 December 2022, as part of the nationwide celebration of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence against Women (VAW). In attendance were 160 participants from the MCL community, SECRA partner schools from the Philippines, and speakers from government agencies.

The webinar featured Ms. Rizaline Sta. Ines, the Division Chief (OIC) of the Disaster Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Central Office, and Mr. Reynaldo de Guia, National President of the Men Opposed to VAW Everywhere (MOVE)-Philippines, an advocacy group of male staff/officials from the government, private sector, academe, and non-government organisations.



### 2. Academe-Industry Round Table Discussion on Disaster Risk and Resilience

The second event conducted by SECRA-MCL was the Academe-Industry Round Table Discussion on Disaster Risk and Resilience (DRR). Conducted on 09 December 2022, it aimed to explore potential collaborative activities with the enterprise and how academic institutions can add value in promoting awareness on disaster risk and resilience.

Invited to the face-to-face consultation were key officials from the Laguna Industrial and Science Park Safety Pollution Control Officers Association, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (LDRRMO), Asia Brewery, Inc., and the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI).

Key takeaways from the event included validating the need for strengthening the integration of the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System in academic institutions and clarifying the contributing role of the academe in terms of communication, coordination and support on community service programs, training, research, and innovation.





### 3. Academe-Enterprise Collaboration in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience

SECRA-MCL launched its first-ever forum on Academe-Enterprise Collaboration in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience on 06 January 2023, delivered through hybrid mode, with resource persons from the UP-Resilience Institute (UPRI) and the Provincial Government of Laguna's Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO). The event gathered close to 300 participants (onsite and online combined).

Keynote speakers included Dr. Alfredo Francisco Mahar A. Lagmay and Mr. Rudy Derez from the UPRI, and Mr. Aldwin Cejo from the PDRRMO. Dr. Lagmay lengthily discussed the importance of probabilistic risk assessments and advocated for the use of the best available technological innovation (i.e., hazard maps). Planning communities will only address the demands of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) if multi-scenario maps cut across the sectors of agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, settlement, and education, among others.

Dr. Lagmay highly encouraged the LGUs and academe to work together to develop 'risk communication' using data analytics to refine climate change assessments. Mr. Aldwin Cejo discussed the topic of 'Developing a Disaster Resilient Mindset' with an overview of the Philippine Disaster Risk profile. Akin to the discussion of Dr. Lagmay, Mr. Cejo emphasised the critical responsibility of LGUs. He underscored the importance of appropriately addressing the needs of the vulnerable sectors (i.e., PWD, senior citizens, etc.) in crisis situations. Specifically for industries and economic zones, Mr. Cejo highly encouraged them to craft business continuity and contingency plans, and improve DRRM strategies to forecast and prepare should crisis situations arise.



### Knowledge Vine - UCLan

Knowledge Vine (KV) is a platform that supports academics with the development of collaborations, both within academia and with partner organisations. Developed by Peter Leather, Head of Intellectual Property & Commercialisation at the University of Central Lancashire, KV works on a very simple question and answer format that provides the opportunity to start conversations, share interests, and create new links.

WP1 of the SECRA project identified that one of the barriers to developing successful University-Enterprise Collaborations (UECs) is finding suitable partners to work with on projects. Although UEC events, where universities invite potential industry partners to university campuses to meet and talk with academics are useful, they also have challenges; events can be difficult to organise and attend due to constraints such as cost, time, and most recently the pandemic.



Knowledge Vine is therefore a great networking tool to use alongside UEC events to identify potential research partners. It is similarly valuable to early career researchers who may be looking to develop their own networks of like-minded researchers, supporters, and mentors but have fewer opportunities to attend in-person events. Through the generous sponsorship of UCLan, a KV specifically dedicated to building connections between researchers and enterprise organisations in the field of disaster research has been developed. All members of the SECRA project can access KV free of charge and we will be running sessions during the Thailand meeting in February to support staff in the use of the tool. To get the most out of the session please register your account using the following link [www.theknowledgevine-secra.co.uk](http://www.theknowledgevine-secra.co.uk) (click 'join us' and complete the form, an administrator will then approve and you can start sharing interests, questions, and answers).