

SECRA UOP: Recap of Colombo Entrepreneur Day and Follow-up Session

We are thrilled to share the exciting news of our participation in the highly successful Colombo Entrepreneur Day, organized by the University of Sri Jayawardenapura (Country Lead) and conducted by Work Package 4 (WP4) led by the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan). Our project team members represented our institution at the event, engaging in insightful discussions, exchanging knowledge, and establishing valuable connections with industry experts and fellow participants. It was an enriching experience that showcased our commitment to entrepreneurship and innovation. Here's a recap of the event and a follow-up session organized by the University of Peradeniya:

Colombo Entrepreneur Day:

The Colombo Entrepreneur Day, organized by the University of Sri Jayawardenapura, was a remarkable platform that brought together aspiring entrepreneurs, industry experts, and academia to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange. This event provided a golden opportunity for participants to transform their business ideas into reality. The focus was on sustainable business concepts that can contribute to the country's economic growth. Our team actively participated in various sessions, workshops, and networking activities. We contributed our insights, shared our experiences, and gained valuable knowledge from industry experts and fellow participants. Our institution's representation was highly regarded, highlighting our commitment to fostering an entrepreneurial spirit and nurturing talent within our university community.



Follow-up Session: "The E-Commerce":



Building upon the success of Colombo Entrepreneur Day, the University of Peradeniya organized a follow-up session titled "The E-Commerce" as part of the SECRA Entrepreneur Support Program. This session aimed to equip participants with valuable insights into the world of e-commerce. The event featured Mr. Dulith Herath, Founder and Chairman of Kapruka.com, as the keynote speaker. Mr. Herath shared his extensive knowledge and experiences, shedding light on the various options available to startups and small businesses in the e-commerce industry. His address provided a comprehensive understanding of the e-commerce landscape, inspiring participants and helping them navigate this dynamic field.

The knowledge shared during the follow-up session is invaluable for our university community and aspiring entrepreneurs. It serves as a guiding light, equipping them with the necessary strategies to transform their innovative ideas into successful e-commerce ventures. This initiative, part of the SECRA Entrepreneur Support Program launched by UOP, underscores our commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and supporting the growth of sustainable businesses.

We extend our gratitude to the University of Sri Jayawardenapura (Country Lead) and Work Package 4 (WP4) led by UCLan University for their dedication in organizing these impactful events. These initiatives provide a solid foundation for aspiring entrepreneurs to thrive, supporting our collective goal of economic growth and innovation.

Stay tuned for more updates and future events as we embark on an exciting journey toward unlocking new opportunities and achievements.

SECRA Trained Pre-Service Teachers on Future-Ready Education, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) and Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM)

The Philippine Normal University (PNU), as one of the collaborators in the Philippines, held sessions entitled "Future-Ready Education, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity in the Workplace" and "Disaster Risk Reduction Training" and was held last May 8, 2023, from 9:00 pm to 5:00 pm, at the ITL Amphitheatre. Prof. Irma L. Escobia, the Finishing School coordinator, gave the opening remarks and set the purpose. Dr. Darryl Roy T. Montebon, SECRA-PNU team leader, gave his opening message and introduced the keynote speaker. The session was given by Dr. Sarita J. Robinson, Associate Dean of School for Psychology and Humanities at the University of Central Lancashire. Her lecture focused on about "Promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI).

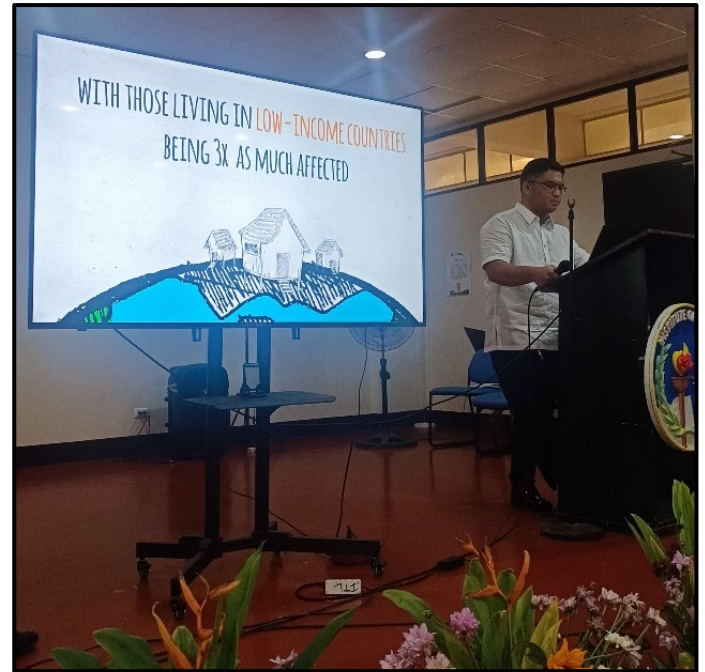


She said that EDI is very important for "it provides all children with access to opportunities and support during the most influential years of their learning and growing. With very apt visuals, she helped the students understand equity, equality, and diversity more clearly and

presented the different forms of discrimination. As a piece of advice for the pre-service teachers, she shared ways to promote EDI in school namely: encouraging communication, making learning accessible to all, encouraging additional learning and reflection, using inclusive language, and becoming an ally by empowering others to make changes. She said that people tend to commit unconscious bias and to prevent such, protection and inclusivity must be promoted. To practice inclusivity, using inclusive language and breaking stereotypes must be done. She ended with a challenge for the audience to make a pledge to change one thing for their children in the classroom.

Afterward, Dr. Montebon facilitated and happily answered some questions from the participants. In the afternoon, Mr. Michael Joseph B. Manuel, the current Training Section Chief of Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office and Officer-in-Charge of Central District Fire and Rescue Volunteer Brigade, Inc. Mr. Manuel was a very engaging and animated speaker who talked extensively and passionately about his topic entitled "Introduction to the

Philippine Risk Reduction and Management System." Mr. Manuel started talking about the profile of the Philippines and its composition. He shared that our country is an archipelago and a part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, which means that it is highly seismic. This established some eye-opening facts and possibilities of disasters that we Filipinos should be prepared for, such as earthquake, flooding, typhoon, volcanic eruption, climate change, and many more.



He said we must be proactive and create paradigm shift. And so, Republic Act 10121 was passed into law which is the legal basis for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) in the Philippines. Because of this, he emphasized the role of the teachers, particularly the early childhood teachers in ensuring that the kids are prepared in safeguarding their lives at present and in the future. Because teachers are going to lay down the foundation of early childhood education, they have the big role and the mission to influence their habits, their ways of life, the way they would treat their environment and the way they would care for not just themselves and loved ones, but for others and their safety as well. It is important that even kids not just adults are aware, educated and involved in whatever capacity they can to save themselves or others in time of disasters, calamities, or when emergencies happen.

Everyone must be knowledgeable about DRRM which is the agency that leads when it comes to matters regarding disaster. It has four (4) thematic areas: disaster prevention and mitigation, disaster preparedness, disaster response, and disaster rehabilitation.

Driving Innovation and Collaboration: Ateneo de Manila University and Leave a Nest Philippines Host TECH PLANTER in the Philippines 2023: Demo Day

The speaker emphasized that for one person to be able to help others, they must help themselves first. One must be strong and alive to help others.

The speaker shared so many on-going projects involving different agencies like Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the national and local government – all working together for the success of all endeavors and projects towards safeguarding the safety of everyone in times of crisis or disasters.

Ultimately, the lengthy sharing all boils down to one thing, that everyone must have what it takes to survive – knowledge, preparation, resources, and discipline. The speaker ended with the popular quote: “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” He also left a wish that we shall not wait until we are a victim before we learn.

Dr. Darryl Roy T. Montebon gave the closing remarks. Mr. Mike Angel T. Renon served as the master of ceremony.



The partnership between Ateneo de Manila University and Leave a Nest Philippines achieved a significant milestone with the event titled TECH PLANTER in the Philippines 2023: Demo Day, held on 13 May 2023, at Escaler Hall, Ateneo de Manila University. This event provided a platform for deep technology startups to showcase their remarkable achievements in tackling societal challenges.

TECH PLANTER is an esteemed acceleration program that empowers deep technology startups to tackle pressing issues. Originally from Japan and expanding to Southeast Asia in 2014, the program acts as a catalyst for startups in need of research and development assistance. It connects them with Japanese corporations, professional business networks, and top-notch factories, facilitating collaboration between the entrepreneurial ecosystem and passionate researchers in the region. TECH PLANTER aims to drive impactful solutions for current and future challenges.

The Ateneo de Manila University has played a vital role in promoting innovation and resilience in Southeast Asia, particularly through the SECRA (Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration for Resilient Communities in Asia) Project. SECRA, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, focuses on strengthening university-enterprise collaboration (UEC) for resilient communities. The event was yet another way in which Ateneo de Manila University, in partnership with government agencies, industry partners, and non-government organizations, has been at the forefront of this collaborative effort.

The event began with Welcoming Remarks delivered by Dr. Charlotte Kendra Gotangco Gonzales, Director of the Ateneo Institute of Sustainability and Country Lead of SECRA Philippines, on behalf of the SECRA Project. In her remarks, she highlighted the ways by which startups can co-benefit resilience and sustainability, emphasizing the potential of startups to create positive impact.

During the event, startups had the opportunity to showcase their deep technologies aimed at addressing real-world challenges. The presentations demonstrated how collaboration across different fields can tackle the visceral issues faced by communities in the region. The event highlighted the immense potential of collaborative, innovative, and resilient approaches to create profound and far-reaching impacts on society.



Naresuan University's SECRA Project Airs on NBT Television Station

Phitsanulok, 16 June 2023 – Associate Professor Dr. Sarintip Tantanee, Acting President of Naresuan University, unveiled the SECRA project during a live broadcast on the National Broadcasting Services of Thailand (NBT). The project's innovative concepts and activities were discussed on the popular TV program, 'The Chatoom'.

Out of 46 applications, nine finalists and six lightning talk teams were selected after a thorough evaluation process. These participants had the chance to pitch their ideas and innovations to a panel of judges, as well as an engaged audience consisting of researchers, investors, and aspiring students. Among the finalists were EnviSense, a startup incubated by the Ateneo Intellectual Property Office (AIPO), who presented their customizable groundwater monitoring system, and Stage Biotech, from the Ateneo Research Institute of Science and Engineering (ARISE), who showcased their open-source medium-scale cellular bioreactor. Additionally, Tidal Philippines by Saltric, another AIPO-incubated startup, presented their innovative energy-gathering tidal turbines as one of the lightning talk teams.

Dr. Tantanee highlighted that the SECRA project fosters collaboration among multiple universities, with European institutions (Sweden, United Kingdom, Estonia) serving as mentors and Asian counterparts as partners. Thailand, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka are among the participating countries, each represented by three collaborating universities. In Thailand, Naresuan University assumes a leadership role, accompanied by Chiang Mai University and Mahasarakham University. The project's primary objective is to strengthen these universities through partnerships with private sector entities or government bodies, collectively known as University Enterprise Collaboration (UEC), with a particular emphasis on disaster resilience. As such, the SECRA project has planned various activities to facilitate university members' understanding of UEC, recognizing its pivotal role within the initiative.

The event culminated with the proclamation of a Grand Winner and Leave a Nest Awardee, who will have the opportunity to compete in the highly anticipated TECH PLANTER Asia Final 2023 in Malaysia on 26 August 2023. In addition, corporate awards were presented with generous support from local and global partners. The selection of winners was carefully deliberated by an esteemed panel of judges, representing local incubators, corporations, government institutions, and prominent Japanese corporations, including Leave a Nest Philippines, Inc., Focus Systems Corporation, EBARA Corporation, Euglena Co., Ltd., and Real Tech Holdings Singapore Pte. Ltd.

During the discussion, Dr. Tantanee was asked to elaborate on the term UEC. According to her, UEC represents a transformative shift in the university's approach. In the past, research efforts often resulted in publications that remained untouched on shelves, failing to serve practical purposes. However, the contemporary research landscape in Thailand embraces a novel paradigm, emphasizing collaborative ventures between universities and private sector organizations. The objective is to fortify research endeavors and establish multifaceted partnerships that yield tangible benefits. The focus is not limited to utilizing existing research but commences with identifying problems or needs voiced by collaborating entities. Stakeholders play an active role in determining academia's contributions and fostering collaboration that ensures research outcomes effectively address the needs of those who stand to benefit, in the most practical and impactful manner.

TECH PLANTER in the Philippines 2023: Demo Day served as a testament to the vision of the SECRA Project. Through the partnership between Ateneo de Manila University and Leave a Nest Philippines, this initiative has empowered aspiring startups to address societal challenges and drive impactful solutions, framing community resilience and sustainability as important aspects of the impacts of startups. The event not only celebrated the achievements of these innovative startups but also highlighted the potential of collaboration, innovation, and the tireless efforts of researchers and entrepreneurs to bring about positive change. With the support of the SECRA Project, Ateneo de Manila University continues to drive innovation, building on existing and ongoing initiatives that contribute to the collaborative vision of creating resilient and sustainable communities.

Furthermore, Dr. Tantanee shed light on collaboration at different scales—small, medium, and large. At a small scale, this involves addressing internal organizational challenges. In such instances, universities can contribute expertise and knowledge to resolve these issues. At a medium scale, consider a private sector enterprise seeking assistance in

Training workshop on Policy brief development by University of Huddersfield

As part of the SECRA training programmed organized by the Naresuan University, Thailand, A training workshop on policy briefs was organized by the University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom. This one-day workshop was conducted by Prof. Richard Haigh, Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga and Mr. Thisara Geethika Perera from the Global Disaster Resilience Centre of the University of Huddersfield. This workshop was aimed at researchers and lectures from the Asian Universities to assist in the development of distinct types of policy briefs. Content during the workshop combined theoretical knowledge and practical demonstrations to provide training in the drafting of a policy brief.



product packaging and commercial revenue generation. Universities can step in to support and drive these endeavors. Another example lies in the agricultural sector, where collaboration can revolve around pilot plants and value addition to agricultural products. Naresuan University's laboratories, for instance, possess the capability to extract beneficial phytochemicals, thereby enhancing their value. These examples illustrate the diverse ways collaboration can be fostered across various levels.

In essence, the SECRA project aims to bolster collaboration between Naresuan University and partner institutions, as well as diverse organizations and sectors. The overarching objective is to generate benefits and stimulate regional economies. This approach benefits both faculty members and students by providing them with on-the-job training, surpassing traditional classroom education. Work-integrated learning becomes the focus, enabling students to not only study within lecture halls but also gain practical experience in laboratories and real-world professional settings to address genuine challenges within their respective fields. This integration of practical knowledge elevates the quality of education to unprecedented heights.

Concluding the program, Dr. Tantanee revealed that the project has received three years of support. During this period, Naresuan University has established partnerships with the Thai Network for Disaster Resilience (TNRD), comprising approximately 20 universities within the network. The university recently participated in the 1st Thai Network Conference on Disaster Resilience in Urban Areas. Looking ahead, Naresuan University will assume the role of host for the conference in the upcoming year, viewing it as an integral part of the sustainable development fostered by the SECRA project. The aim is to share experiences in the realms of University-Enterprise Collaboration (UEC) and Disaster Resilience (DR).

Note: Watch the program rerun through this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiHzVGI1dIM>

The workshop included interactive and practical exercises and short presentations from organizers on University–Enterprise collaboration and Disaster resilience themes. These exchanges highlighted the range of UEC (University Enterprise Collaboration) themes and allowed participants to frame their work and provide a means for disseminating their results. Workshop presentations also focused on the definition and importance of developing an advocacy or objective policy brief for University–Enterprise collaboration. A further talk by Prof. Richard Haigh outlined the more technical methods and requirements to structure a policy brief.

Ideas and information from the talks were applied by the participants in three group workshops that focused on developing an advocacy policy brief for University–Enterprise collaboration for Disaster resilience in Thailand, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. The country context of UEC, disaster management in the national context, and an advocacy brief for University-Enterprise collaboration as a solution to disaster resilience was often highlighted by the participants. Ideas were then presented, and feedback was provided via an evaluation to support the participant's knowledge gained from this exercise.

