

SECRA staff mobility event in Östersund, Sweden

On October 9–13, approximately 30 researchers and engineers from the SECRA project visited (Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration for Resilient Communities in Asia) Mid Sweden University, which is a partner in the project.

The visitors came from 13 different universities in Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Great Britain and Estonia. During the week, they worked together within the framework of the SECRA project, the purpose of which is to contribute to more resilient societies in Asia by developing cooperation between universities and the surrounding community in reducing the risk of disasters. Mittuniversitetet also arranged a half-day conference where researchers from SECRA and from Central University's risk and crisis research center RCR met and exchanged experiences.

In addition, the participants met, among other things, Peak Innovation, visited the RCR Simulation Lab, and got a tour of Östersund and the campus. Evangelia Petridou and Jörgen Sparf, SECRA's project manager at Mittuniversitetet and organizers of the visit, were very pleased with the week which contained both important work and social activities. The visitors were also satisfied and the atmosphere in the group was consistent good, although the cold autumn weather surprised many.



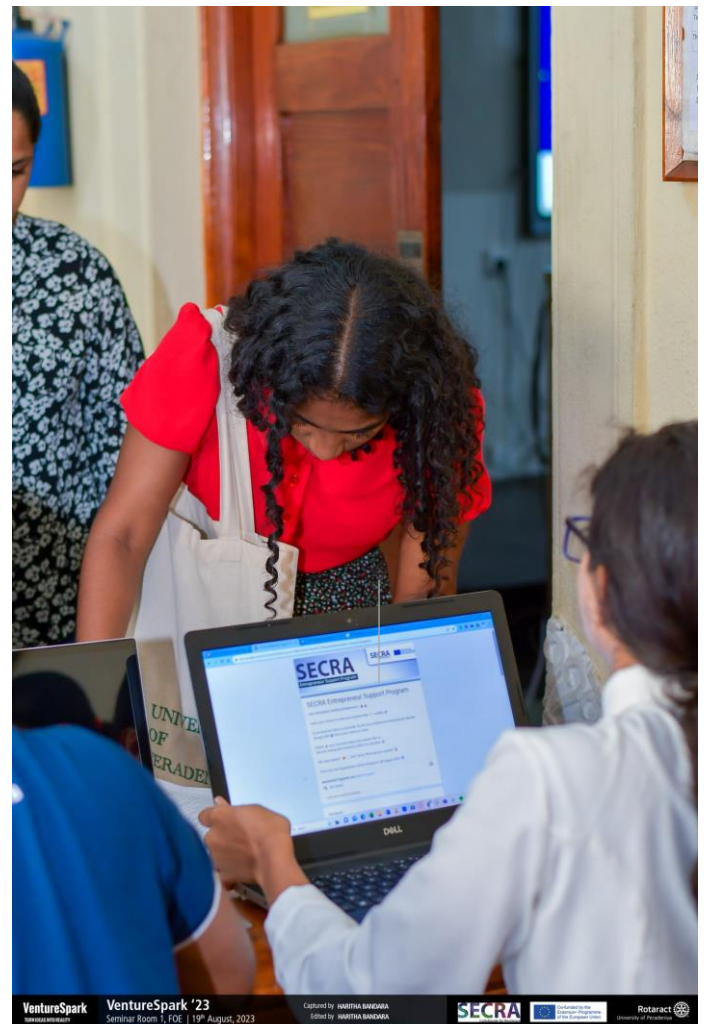
Empowering Future Entrepreneurs: SECRA Entrepreneur Support Program 2023, University of Peradeniya

SECRA Entrepreneur Support Program, a pivotal element of the “Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration (UEC) for Resilient Communities in Asia (SECRA) Project” co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, was held on August 19th, 2023, in the Seminar Room 1 at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya. This remarkable event marked a day of insights, collaboration, and transformative discussions, aimed at advancing the realms of entrepreneurship and disaster resilience.

The SECRA Entrepreneur Support Program brought together a diverse audience comprising students, academics, and industry experts. The event was a testament to the power of collaboration between academia and industry, both of which play instrumental roles in driving innovation and fostering resilient communities.

The heart of the event revolved around the project's Work Packages 3 and 4: Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Community of Practice. These themes set the stage for vibrant discussions, shedding light on the profound impact collaboration between universities and enterprises can have on disaster resilience.

Dr. Udaya Dissanayake, Dean, Faculty of Engineering graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Speakers, including Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, Senior Professor, University of Peradeniya, illuminated the journey from graduates to entrepreneurs, emphasizing the vital role that academia-industry collaboration plays in this process. Prof. Dharshana Yapa, Director of Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation, and Technology Transfer Office, University of Peradeniya shared insights on innovation within academic settings and the role of BLII-TTO. Mr. Heminda Jayaweera, Vice Chairperson of TRACE Sri Lanka, offered a compelling keynote on real-world entrepreneurship. And, Mr. Thushara Kamalrathne, Senior Lecturer, University of Peradeniya, brought a unique perspective from his role as a researcher in the area of sociology emphasizing the significance of collective engagement in driving resilient communities forward.



SECRA UOR: Follow-up Sessions of Colombo Entrepreneur Day

Building upon the success of Colombo Entrepreneur Day, the University of Ruhuna organised a series of program including workshops, webinars, and an experiential camp to help and give training to develop business idea into a successful business.

Workshop on Business Startup

As the first step, a workshop on “Business Starup” was organized on September 25, 2023, at the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna to benefit the Participating students and budding entrepreneurs from vivid experience, insights, support, encouragement, and vision of renowned mentors, industry experts, successful entrepreneurs.



Students who want to “start own business, or having a business idea or want to know what it takes to start a business were invited to participate in this workshop. The workshop comprised of guest lectures on “Business Incubation” done by Prof. Emeritus K.D.N Weerasinghe, University of Ruhuna (mentor), “Pathway to Economic Recovery of Sri Lanka – Role of Technology” by Prof. Saman Seneweera, University of Ruhuna (mentor), “Market Analysis” and “Business Plan

Development” by Mr. Rumesh Jayasekara, Manager, Marketing & Strategies ay Tokyo Cement Group (industry expert), and Success stories of two 2 successful entrepreneurs, Mr. Chiranjaya Pathirage, Founder at Plant Beat (Pvt.) Ltd and Miss Haily Seneviratne, Lecturer at Wayamba University and Director of Fortigrains Lanka PVT LTD.

At the end of the workshop, Proposal Template (online form) was shared with participants to submit their business plan enhanced with the knowledge gain from the workshop to be submitted for the Entrepreneur Selection for the Business Engagement of SECRA Project.



Workshop on “Opportunities for Agropreneurship”



WORKSHOP ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGROPRENEURSHIP

 Wednesday, 8 November 2023

 9.30 AM to 2.00 PM

 Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna

RESOURCE PERSON

Dr. Gamunu Jayasundara
Senior Business Manager - Agriculture at Prima - Ceylon Agro Industries



For the next step of the program series to help and give training to develop business idea into a successful business, a workshop on “Opportunities for Agropreneurship” in the November 08, 2023 at the Department of

Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology, University of Ruhuna, to explore the opportunities in Agropreneurship. Students who submitted business proposals in the first workshop and students’ enthusiast in Agropreneurship were invited to participate in the workshop.

Dr. Gamunu Jayasundara, Senior Business Manager, Agriculture at Prima, Ceylone Agro Industries was the resource person of the workshop, where he delivered lectures on “Introduction to Agripreneurship”, “ Identifying Needs”, “Understanding Customers”, “Developing a Prototype”, “Sorting the Financials” and Training on Agribusiness Incubation hosted interactive sessions that included “Idea Generation Session”, “Case Studies”, “Business Model Canvas Workshop” and finally “Pitching Session” where participating students present their business ideas with the knowledge gain during the workshop.

