

## NU FOUNTAIN Online Workshop under the project Fostering Sustainable University- industry Techno-entrepreneurial Collaborations and Innovations in Asian Universities (FOUNTAIN)

On 10th – 12th January 2024, the Faculty of Engineering, Naresuan University (NU) hosted the FOUNTAIN NU Online Workshop under the project Fostering Sustainable University-industry Techno-entrepreneurial Collaborations and Innovations in Asian Universities (FOUNTAIN), a 3-year project funded by It is a grant by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), European Union Erasmus+ Program under the call Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education: Strand 2 – Partnerships for transformation in higher education.

Distinguished scholars from partner countries, namely Sri Lanka, Thailand, Sweden, Lithuania, and Estonia, will participate in this workshop. The consortium comprises 10 Higher Education Institutes, including University of Ruhuna, University of Peradeniya, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Horizon College of Business & Technology, Naresuan University, Chiang Mai University, Tallinn University of Technology, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, and Mid Sweden University. The workshop, designed to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration, which is conducted online over three days, from January 10th to 12th, 2024.

On Day 1, 10 January 2024, Professor Guttilla Jayasinghe, Project Lead from the University of Ruhuna, unveiled the ambitious FOUNTAIN project, showcasing a comprehensive overview of seven key work packages. The project, aimed at fostering innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, and university-industry collaboration, promises to be a groundbreaking initiative. Work Package 1 focuses on efficient project management, while -



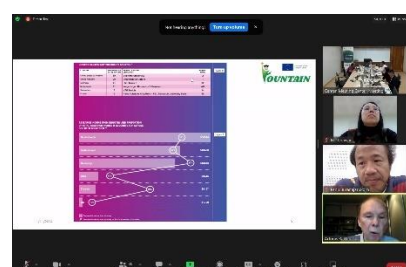
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Work Package 2 lays the groundwork for project activities. Work Package 3 is dedicated to the development of the University Industry Digital Transformation Platforms on both national and international fronts, as well as the creation of university-industry models. Work Package 4 emphasizes the development of innovative and entrepreneurial curricular modules to enhance university-industry collaborations. Work Package 5 aims to establish a center of excellence in entrepreneurship, invention, and innovations. Additionally, Work Packages 6 and 7 address project quality assurance and dissemination and exploitation, ensuring the highest standards are met throughout the project's lifecycle.

Throughout the Day1, the consortium engaged in dynamic discussions, covering updates on work packages, insights from survey data, and summaries of document studies on university-industry collaboration issues. The collaborative sessions featured intriguing proposals, such as advocating for policy analysis derived from FOUNTAIN project outcomes. During the discussions, Acting President of Naresuan University, Associate Professor Dr. Sarintip Tantanee, expressed enthusiasm for presenting the project's significance at both organizational and national levels. Dr. Tantanee highlighted the importance of University Industry Collaboration (UIC), emphasizing its critical role in global university rankings. She also suggested advocating for UIC's importance in national policy discussions, showcasing effective examples from Thailand where state funding has catalyzed research and economic value through collaborative ventures with the private/business sector and technology readiness level (TRL).

**On Day 2, 11 January 2024**, during the morning session, representatives from Sri Lankan and Thai universities, after dividing into country-specific groups for discussion, presented their ideas and experiences on University-Industry Engagement (UIC). The participants shared various approaches and insights.



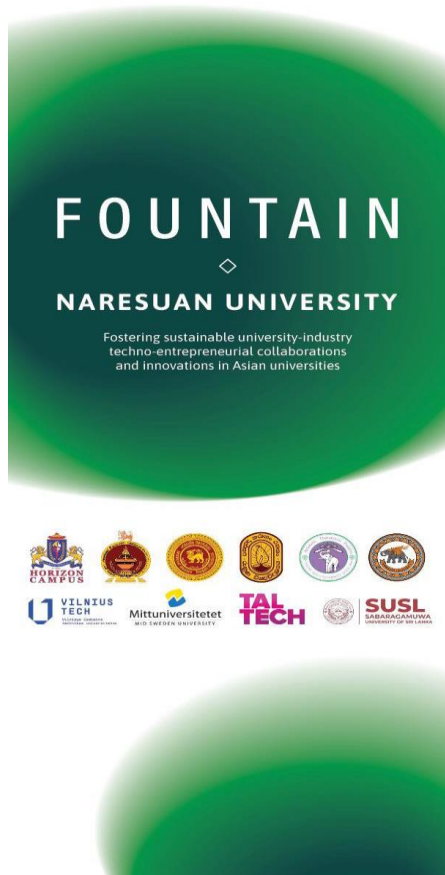


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In the afternoon session, European partners: Prof. Emlyn Witt (Tallinn University of Technology), Prof. Arturas Kaklauskas, (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University), Assoc. Prof. Evangelia Petridou and Miss Jenny Nylund (Mid Sweden University and Peak Innovation Science Park), presented their best practices on UIC, using case studies to illustrate practices from the European Union context, then narrowing down to national contexts and specific university scales. This session continued with discussions in separate rooms, followed by a revise and re-presentation of UIC best practices by both the Thai and Sri Lankan partners.

During the revision presentation session, **the Sri Lanka partners** outlined UIE best practices in Sri Lanka across three mobility levels: high (relationships), medium (mobility), and low (transfer). They highlighted the different types of academic-industry interactions, UIC modes, and various initiatives/services in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), showcasing successful examples from each university. **The Thailand partners** described various forms of UIE, such as sponsored research, contract research, collaborative research, consultancy, patenting, internship/cooperative education, and other knowledge exchange forms. They highlighted best practices in Thailand, including the “P80” Logan Natural Extract program from Chiang Mai University and the use of cricket protein as a functional food industry ingredient by Naresuan University.

**The Estonian partner** presented the European Innovation Council (EIC) work programs as EU-level best practices. They showcased Estonia's national research database (etis.ee), the adapter.ee platform for easy access to Estonia's best R&D for companies and organizations, and other platforms like Tehnopol Science and Business Park. Additionally, examples from Estonia's two largest universities, Tartu University and Tallinn University of Technology, were shared as national best practices. **The Lithuania**



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**partner** discussed the status of research income from industry among top-ranked universities and selected countries, along with publications featuring commercial collaboration by country and subject. They presented practical examples as Lithuania's best practices. **The Swedish partner's** presentation focused on peak innovation science parks in Sweden, strategic innovation projects in helix collaboration, the importance of preparing internal stakeholders for better collaboration with external stakeholders, and involving external stakeholders from the initial stages to build trust and enhance collaboration.

**On Day 3, 12 January 2024**, representatives from universities in Sri Lanka and Thailand shared their insights and experiences on University-Industry Engagement CAMP during the morning session. In the afternoon, the EU partners, shared experiences on University-Industry Engagement CAMP. At the end all the consortium summarized the concept, structure, and expected outcome from the UIE CAMP.

Throughout the three days, there were intense presentations and collaborative discussions from the FOUNTAIN partners, providing a robust framework for the operation of FOUNTAIN project members to meet the objectives of the upcoming project.

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#### NU FOUNTAIN Team



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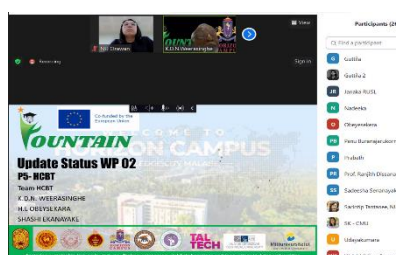
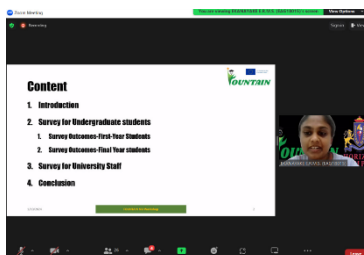




## Event Gallery

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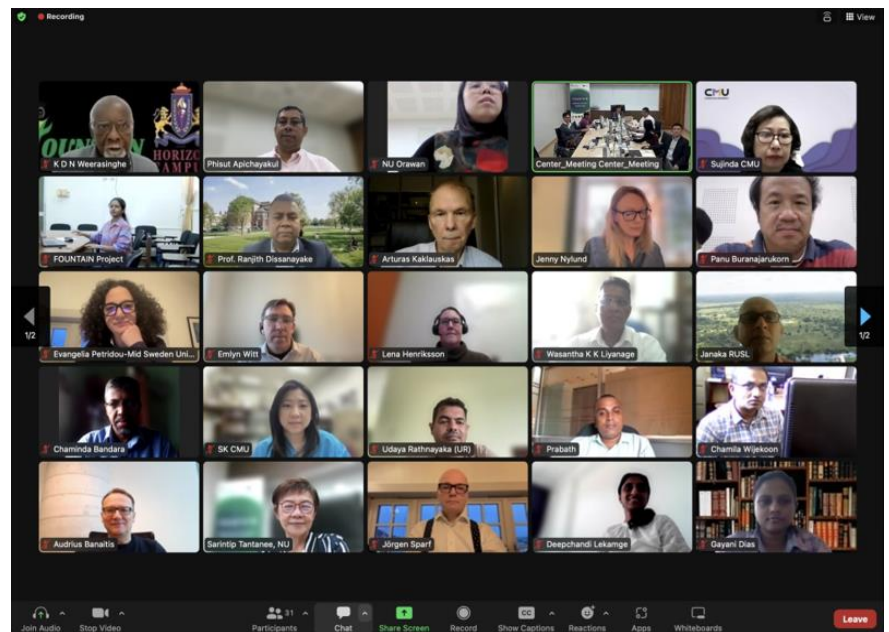
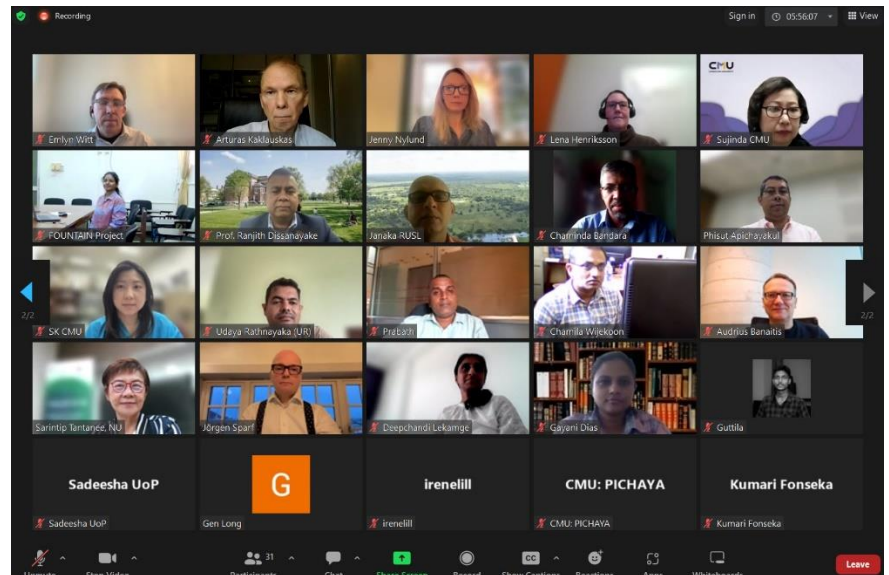
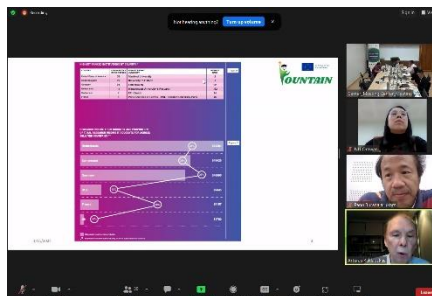
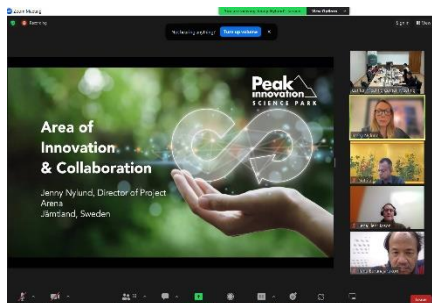
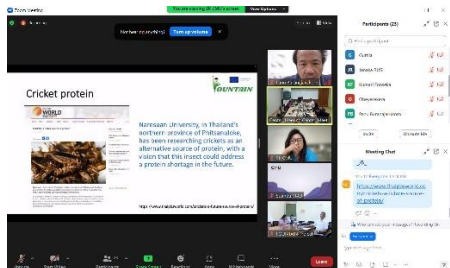
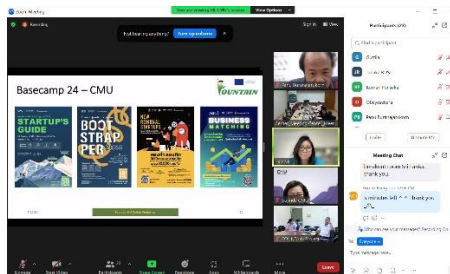




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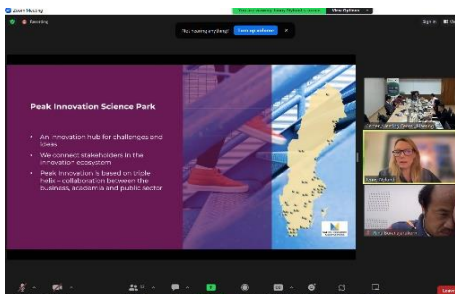
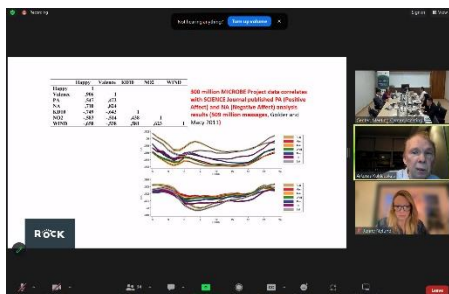
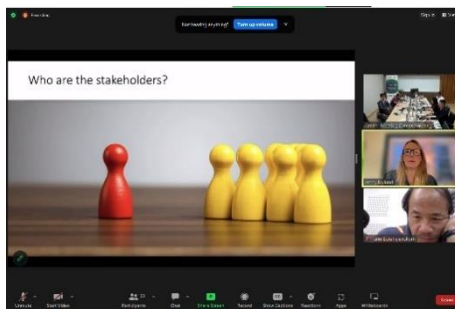




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