



Season's Greetings
from
MIND group to
MIND Family!!

COVID-19 and Sustainable Development -

New Journal Publication from MIND

Check out Professor Mohan Munasinghe's latest contribution to International Journal of Sustainable Development

Abstract: This perspective article examines the current sustainable development framework in the context of COVID-19, and argues that it is robust enough to face multiple long-term global challenges including pandemics, poverty and climate change. COVID-19 highlights major existing unsustainabilities, including unhealthy interactions between ecological and socio-economic systems, like human encroachments into wildlife habitats that have facilitated coronavirus transmission. Seven preliminary policy-relevant lessons are given to re-prioritise sustainable development issues – protect the environmental base and avoid dangerous feedbacks; find integrated, globally-coordinated, systems-based long-term solutions for multiple problems; empower individuals to act now; focus on social issues; pursue a transformative path to sustainability via balanced inclusive green growth (BIGG); promote sustainable urban habitats and lifestyles by leveraging digital technology; and use better risk analysis and management. The practical and integrated way forward towards BIGG is discussed, in the context of currently unsustainable human activities. Key problems of implementation are outlined, including linkages with UN SDG and 2030 Agenda.

Access to full article available - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343975766_COVID-19_and_Sustainable_Development.

Please do contact MIND (priyangi@mindlanka.org), in case you cannot access this paper through this link.

Work of Data Scientists at MIND Group -MINDAM was awarded the Best Paper of the 27th Annual Technical Conference of the IET Sri Lanka Network 2020

MIND-AM group led by Dr. Ranjiva Munasinghe, focuses on Natural Language Processing (NLP) for Sinhala at Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT). The group made the following presentations which were subsequently published in the conference proceedings and will be available on the IEEE International online library:

Presentation/Paper: "**Sentiment Classification of Sinhala Content in Social Media: A Comparison Between Word N-Grams and Character N-Grams**" - authored by P. Jayasuriya, R. Munasinghe & S. Thelijjagoda received the award for Best Paper of the 27th Annual Technical Conference of the IET Sri Lanka Network 2020

Conference: 27th Annual Technical Conference of the IET Sri Lanka Network 2020; Date: 27th August 2020

In addition,

Presentation/Paper: "**Sentiment Classification of Sinhala Content in Social Media**"

Conference: International Research Conference on Smart Computing and Systems Engineering (SCSE 2020), University of Kelaniya 2020; Date: 24th September 2020.

Featuring a MIND Scholar –

Chiranthi Senanayake from University of Colombo



This month we feature a MIND Scholarship Recipient of 2018, Chiranthi Senanayake whose advocacy work in the local youth development fields have been appreciated both nationally and internationally. She is a youth empowerment advocate specializing in the niche area of Youth Empowerment Incubation (YEI). Chiranthi began her community service at the age of 14 years and has since then been part of numerous youth developmental programmes with state and non-state organizations. In recognition of her social work, she was appointed the United Nations Youth Delegate for Sri Lanka in 2016. In this capacity she has worked as a Youth Focal Point to the National Youth Services Council and the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs. Chiranthi also served as the Global Ambassador for Sri Lanka for Youth Opportunities in 2018. She currently serves as the Regional Ambassador for South Asia for The Global Youth Aspirations Programme. She is a Women Deliver Young Leader of 2020 and the recipient of the prestigious Diana Award 2020. As an extension of her youth developmental work, she founded the Country's only Youth Empowerment Incubator, Hype Sri Lanka.

In terms of her professional and academic background, Chiranthi is an Attorney-at-Law who has completed her LLB at the University of London and her BA specializing in Development Policy and Management Economics at the University of Colombo. She was awarded The Chevening Scholarship by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of The UK to follow her LLM in International Economic Policy, Justice and Development at Birkbeck, University of London. Her advocacy aspiration is to mainstream YEI in the global youth development sector. Upon completing her LLM she hopes to pursue a career as an Academic in the field of International Economic Law.

Creating Ambassadors of Sustainable Development

Scholarship programme for 2020 is delayed by a few months due to Covid-19. Currently, we are conducting interviews virtually, and planning to select our 2020 batch by February 2021.