



NSF Digital Platform of Expatriate Sri Lankan Professionals

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A clarion call to Sri Lankan expatriates abroad !



A great opportunity to be engaged with the motherland in a mutually rewarding and reinforcing manner

Let us join the digital platform and be a dynamic force and strategic partner in national development

Visit: NSF website <http://www.nsf.gov.lk> for details

**Chairman
National Science Foundation
Sri Lanka
Email: chm@nsf.gov.lk**

Background

- There are nearly three million Sri Lankan expatriates and emigrants, including an appreciable number of reputed scientists and professionals holding senior positions in academia, R&D institutions and industry abroad.
- They undoubtedly constitute a formidable potential asset of Sri Lanka which has hitherto been almost untapped and untouched for national development.



Goal

To tap the potential of the highly competent Sri Lankan Expatriates in S & T, Industry, Higher Education, etc. for National Development.

Objectives

1. Provide greater opportunities for higher education and capacity building
2. Enhance academic cooperation and research collaboration
3. Create a culture of creativity and innovation
4. Promote joint publications and ranking of Sri Lankan universities
5. Facilitate technology transfer for industrial development
6. Promote joint enterprises/business partnerships



Fields that can benefit from the Digital Platform

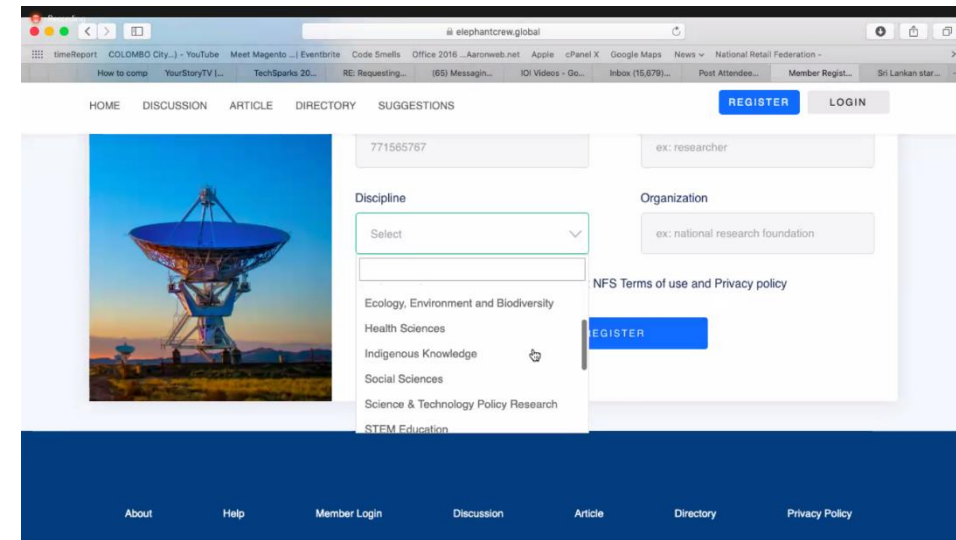
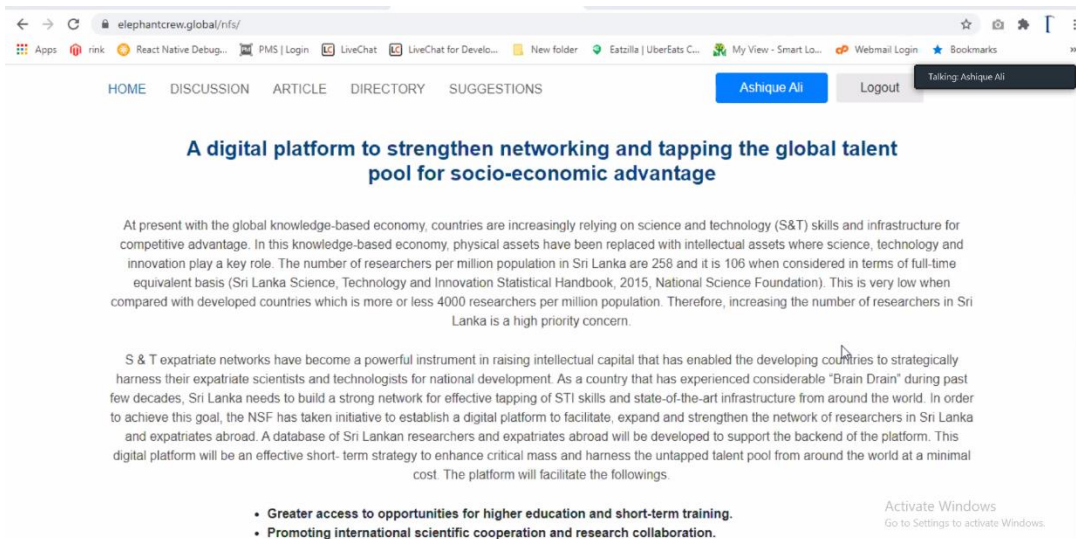


- Higher Education
- Science and Technology
- Industry
- Trade and Export
- Foreign Direct Investment
- Tourism, etc.



Development of the Digital Platform

- Developed by the Sri Lanka Association for Software and Services Companies (SLASSCOM)
- Currently at the latter stages of development
- To be launched in December, 2020



Activities conducted so far.....

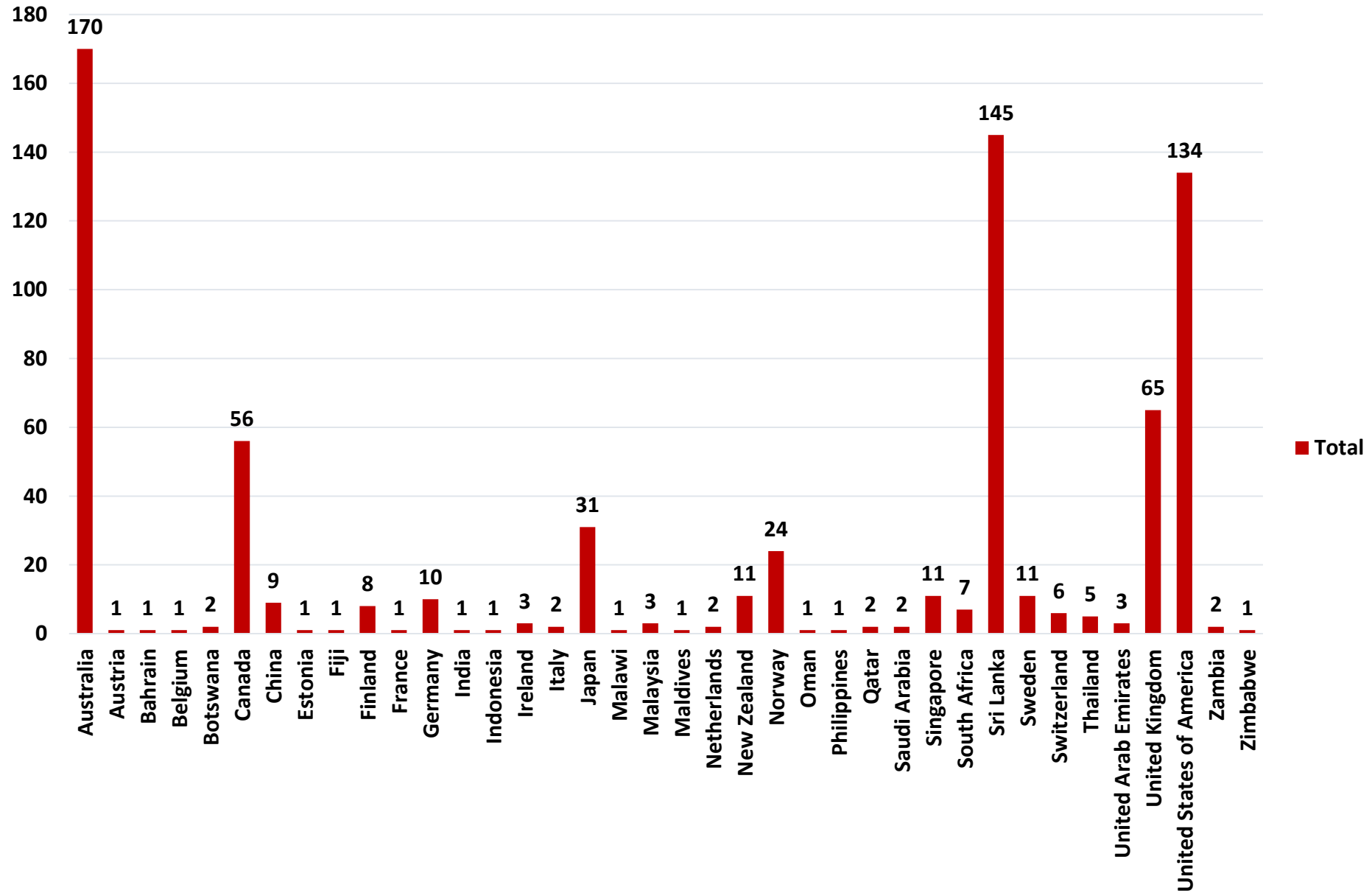
NSF Expatriate Database

- Online registration
- 737 registrants as at 18.11.2020

1	Title	First Name (with initials, if Last Name	Country	Affiliation	Designation	Telephone (Optional)	Telepho	Telepho	Email	Email (Persc
2	Dr.	Santha Sumanasekara	Australia	RMIT University	Senior Program Manager				santha@me.com	
3	Prof.	Chamindie Punyadeera	Australia	Group Leader and a rese	Diagnostic and Molecular Biology				chamindie.punyadeera@qut.edu.au	
4	Dr.	Chaminda Gallage	Australia	Queensland University of	Senior Lecturer				chaminda.gallage@qut.edu.au	
5	Prof.	David Thambiratnam	Australia	Queensland University of	Professor	0731811467			d.thambiratnam@qut.edu.au	
6	Dr.	A Dhammika S Jayalath	Australia	Queensland University of	Senior Lecturer	+61731388034			jayalath@qut.edu.au	
7	Prof.	Karu Karunasena	Australia	University of Southern Qui	Professor in Structural Engineering and Head of Discipline of Civil En				karu.karunasena@usq.edu.au	
8	Dr.	Weena Lokuge	Australia	University of Southern Qui	Senior Lecturer	0437049820			weena.lokuge@usq.edu.au	
9	Dr.	L. Kithsiri Perera	Australia	University of Southern Qui	Lecturer	0479145765			kithsiri.perera@usq.edu.au	
10	Prof.	Saravanamuthu Vigneswaran	Australia	University of Technology	Distinguished Professor of Environmental Engineering				s.vigneswaran@uts.edu.au	
11	Dr.	Parijurnanda Loganathan	Australia	University of Technology	Retired Associate Professor, Massey University, New Zealand				pari.loganathan@yahoo.com	
12	Prof.	Arumugam Sathasivan	Australia	Western Sydney Universit	Professor				s.sathasivan@westernsydney.edu.au	
13	Dr.	Ranjan Sarukkalige	Australia	Curtin University	Senior Lecturer	+94892663530			p.sarukkalige@curtin.edu.au	
14	Prof.	Jayantha Kodikara	Australia	Monash University	Professor, Director of Spe	61399054963			jayantha.kodikara@monash.edu	
15	Prof.	Ashantha Goonetilleke	Australia	Queensland University of	Professor in Water/Environmental Engineering				a.goonetilleke@qut.edu.au	
16	Prof.	Mahen Mahendran	Australia	Queensland University of	Professor of Structural En	0434070139			m.mahendran@qut.edu.au	
17	Dr.	Manjula Dissanayake	Australia	University of Adelaide	Academic Director				manjula.dissanayake@adelaide.edu.au	
18	Dr.	Damith Herath	Australia	University of Canberra	Associate Professor in Ro	+61262068324			damith.herath@canberra.edu.au	

Row Labels	Count of Country
Australia	170
Austria	1
Bahrain	1
Belgium	1
Botswana	2
Canada	56
China	9
Estonia	1
Fiji	1
Finland	8
France	1
Germany	10
India	1
Indonesia	1
Ireland	3
Italy	2
Japan	31
Malawi	1
Malaysia	3
Maldives	1
Netherlands	2
New Zealand	11
Norway	24
Oman	1
Philippines	1
Qatar	2
Saudi Arabia	2
Singapore	11
South Africa	7
Sri Lanka	145
Sweden	11
Switzerland	6
Thailand	5
United Arab Emirates	3
United Kingdom	65
United States of America	134
Zambia	2
Zimbabwe	1
Grand Total	737

Registrants at the NSF Expatriate Database as at 18.11.2020



Series of Webinars with the Sri Lankan Expatriate Professionals

Webinar No.	Country/Region	Date	Time (SL time)	Number of Expatriates
1	Australia	18 th August	02.00 p.m.	42
2	USA	08 th September	08.00 a.m.	41
3	UK	24 th September	02.00 p.m.	30
4	Canada	06 th October	08.00 a.m.	20
5	EU region	13 th October	02.00 p.m.	14
6	Japan	20 th October	02.30 p.m.	11

NSF Digital Platform

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America
 Europe
 Canada
 Japan
 Australia
 U.K.

Held on 18th August
 Held on 08th September
 Held on 24th September
 Held on 06th October
 Held on 13th October
 Held on 20th October

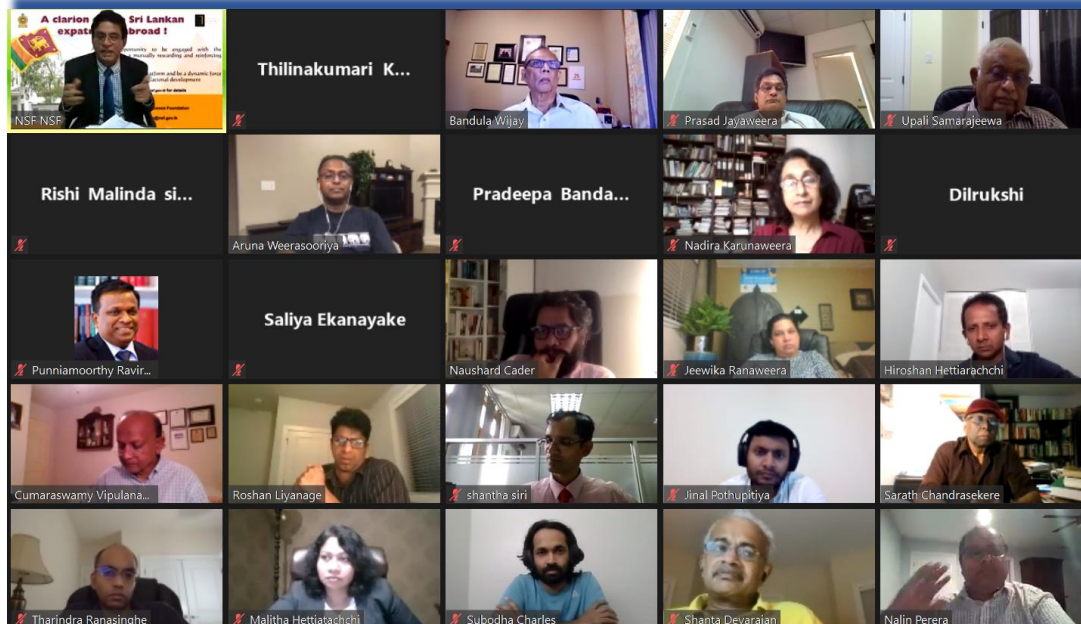
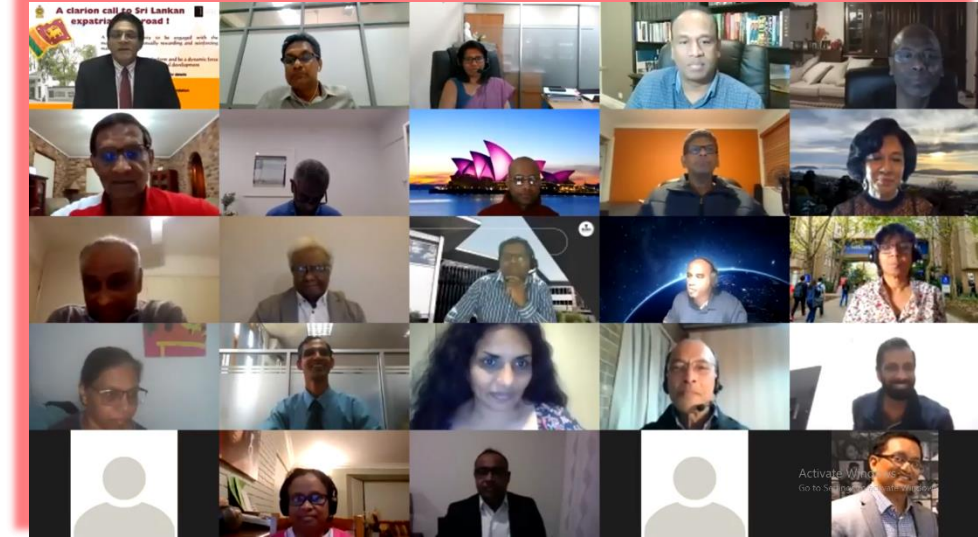
Webinars with active participation of distinguished Sri Lankan professionals, academics and scientists living abroad was a great success!

Summary

Australia:

Prerequisites for successful implementation of the platform:

- Identification of high priority areas in Sri Lanka as per the national policy framework,
- Determination of the intellectual resource base in academia and R & D Institutions and their capacity building needs,
- Matching them with the competencies and interests of the expatriates in a mutually rewarding manner through a multi-disciplinary approach.



USA:

A keen interest to contribute in a wide array of fields such as;

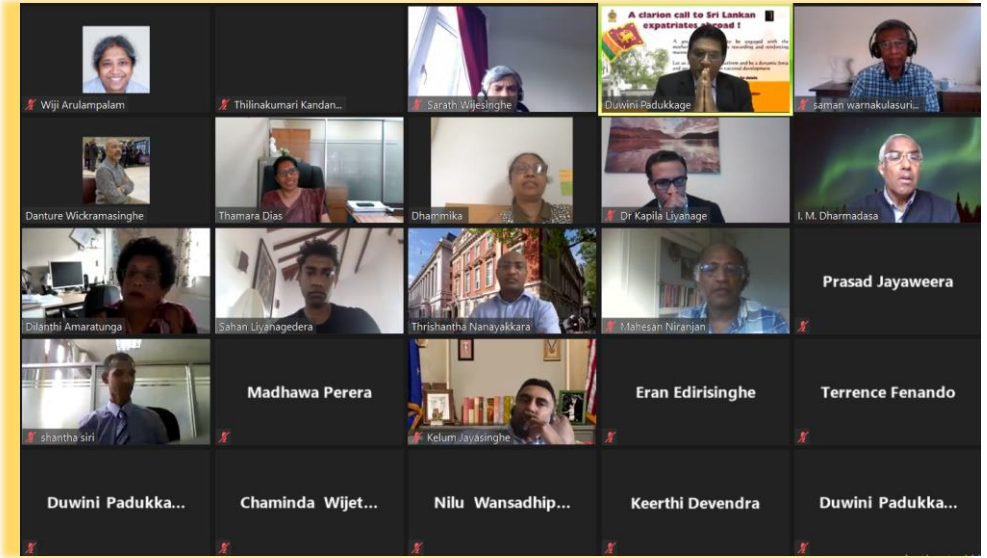
- Production of pharmaceuticals,
- Quality control of herbal products,
- Water and marine resource development,
- Promoting innovation and capacity building in higher education and R&D institutions,
- Industry-institutional partnerships,
- Inculcating innovation culture at the school level,
- Bringing ethical and social standards to the equation

Summary

UK:

Expressed keen interest and desire to contribute to capacity and critical mass building and competency enhancement in;

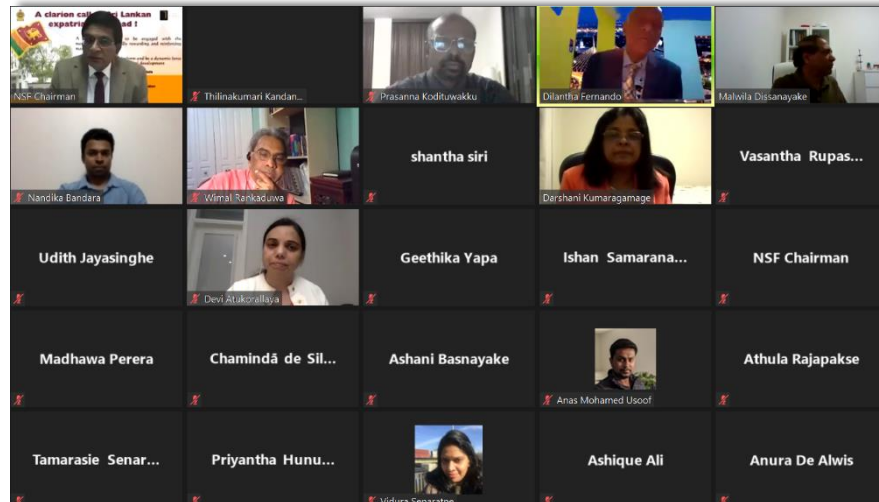
- Renewable energy
- Disaster management
- Higher education
- Artificial intelligence
- Intellectual property rights
- Development of smart cities
- Transformational research
- Tapping global cluster communities
- Knowledge transfer seminars
- Improvement of quality and standard of Sri Lanka journals



Canada:

Key points discussed:

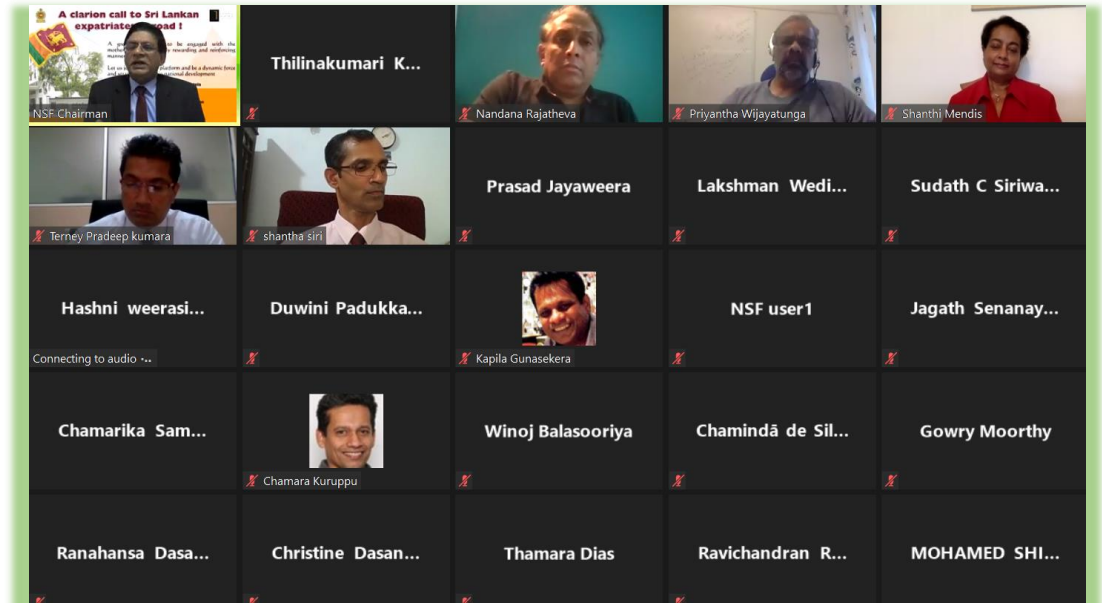
- Need for vertical and horizontal integration of universities R&D institutions and funding agencies
- Sharing of information on the expatriates with the local academic and research community
- Collaborative research
- Student exchange
- Joint supervision and publications
- Establishment of joint laboratories



Summary

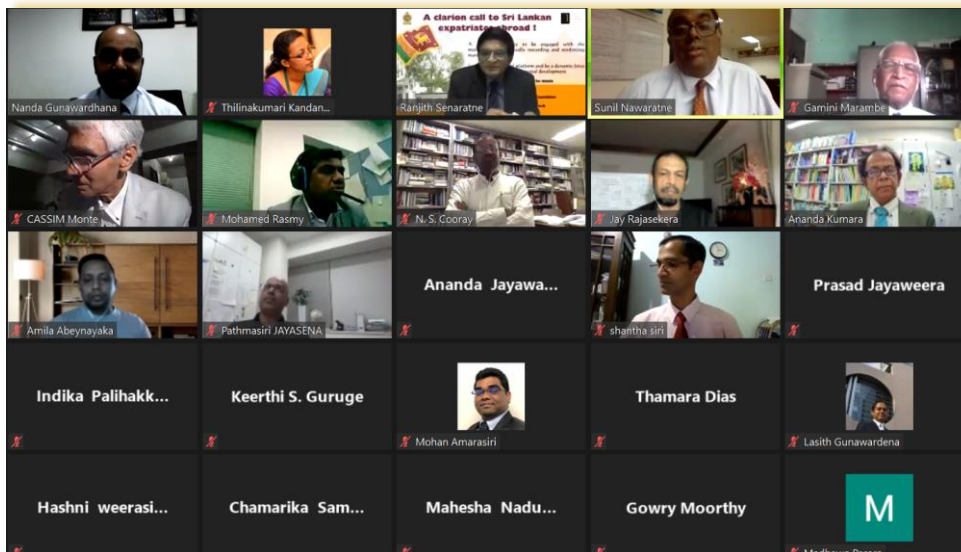
EU Key points discussed:

- Need for educational research
- Access to cutting edge research publications
- Technical cooperation in marine spatial planning
- Identifying clusters and communities of similar interest
- Sharing of information on the expatriates with the local academic and research community
- Collaborative research
- Student exchange
- Joint supervision and publications
- Teaching on emerging technologies
- Giving wider publicity for funding and other opportunities through the digital platform



Japan Key points discussed:

- Possibilities for strengthening linkages among the academic and research communities of both countries through the Sakura Science Programme of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- Environmental health assessment
- Disaster risk reduction (DRR)
- Agriculture
- Development of low-cost laboratory equipment Scienceware for schools in Sri Lanka
- 'Academia ceylonica'



Way forward.....

- A roadmap and programme will be developed shortly taking suggestions, comments and proposals from expatriates into account.
- Key emphasis on high priority concerns in Sri Lankan context.
- Expatriate professionals of similar fields will be grouped together and;
 - Knowledge sharing in those fields will be facilitated
 - linked with the local academics and researchers to initiate collaborative projects

This will be a formidable guiding force, a catalyst and a locomotive for graduating Sri Lanka from the middle income levels (i.e. USD 4,000) to high income category (i.e. USD 12,536) by 2035.



Thank You