

RESEARCH @

University Research Council – University of Peradeniya



Volume: I Issue: III
URC e-Newsletter
November 2021

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HORIZON EUROPE

Horizon Europe (2021-2027) is the **9th European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**. It is the biggest and most ambitious programme of its kind ever with a budget of over €95 billion. The 5 defined missions are related to cancer, carbon-neutral cities, climate change, oceans and waters, and soil health.

Our researchers can participate in Pillar-II consortiums and receive funding. However, we cannot lead Horizon Europe grants. Applications should be submitted by a Member State or an Associated Country.

The application form will have two parts: Part A contains administrative information about the applicant organisations, the summarised budget for the Proposal and call-specific questions and Part B contains the technical description of the project. The Proposal should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria and highlight the technology readiness and social readiness levels.

The applications are evaluated based on **Excellence, Impact, and Quality and efficiency of the implementation**. The horizon Europe emphasises open science practices, including early and open sharing of research, research output management, reproducibility of research outputs, open access to research outputs, and involving all relevant knowledge actors. It is important to deposit research outputs in trusted repositories.

To apply please click the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

For further details please refer to the October edition – e-Newsletter

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OTHER

Research Grants

1. Italian Fund for Science – fundamental research call

The Ministry of Universities and Research, under its Italian Fund for Science (FIS), invites applications for its fundamental research call. This supports fundamental research in the sciences in Italy. The following grants are available:

- starting grants, for applicants who are between two and 10 years from receiving their PhD – the total budget is €20 million to fund grants worth up to €1m each;

- advanced grants, for applicants who are more than 10 years from receiving their PhD – the total budget is €30m to fund grants worth up to €1.5m each.

Applicants may be of any nationality. They must demonstrate research expertise, with a minimum number of peer-reviewed publications and international recognition. The grant must be held at an Italian university or public research institution and applicants must enter into an employment agreement with the host institution at least for the duration of the grant. Applications must be submitted in English.

The maximum project period is five years. Projects in the life sciences, physical sciences or engineering may request up to an additional €500,000 for the purchase of equipment.

Closing date 27 December 2021

Deadline Information Applications are invited between 26 October and 12 noon Italian time, 27 December 2021.

Date added 19 October 2021

Award type Directed grants for individual investigators

Award amount max €2,000,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Nationality of researcher Any

2. Grants for international research visits

The Lappeenranta University of Technology Research Foundation invites applications for its grants for international research visits. These support both researchers going abroad and those arriving at Lappeenranta University of Technology. The purpose of these grants is to encourage individual researchers and research groups to advance international research cooperation and to increase the number of articles published in internationally respected science publications. Researchers at any career stage may apply. Grants cover travel and accommodation expenses for visits lasting between three and 12 months.

Closing date 25 November 2021

Deadline Information Applications due by 4pm. This call is repeated once a year.

Country of applicant institution Any

Indexed with these disciplines Engineering; Business & Management Studies; Computer Science & Informatics

[Postgraduate students and post-doctoral researchers - Research Foundation of Lappeenranta University of Technology \(lut-tukisaatio.fi\)](#)

3. Wellcome Discovery Awards

This scheme provides funding for established researchers and teams from any discipline who want to pursue bold and creative research ideas to deliver significant shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing.

Where the host organisation of the lead applicant is based:

UK, Republic of Ireland, [Low- or middle-income countries \(apart from India and mainland China\)](#)

Level of funding:

You should ask for the resources you need for your research programme – see the 'What we offer' section on this page. You will need to justify this in your application.

Duration of funding:

Usually 8 years, but may be less for some disciplines, and longer if held on a part-time basis.

Deadline: 24 March 2022, 17:00 GMT

[Wellcome Discovery Awards - Grant funding | Wellcome](#)

4. JR Smallwood Foundation for Newfoundland and Labrador Studies, CA

The JR Smallwood Foundation invites applications for its research grants. These support travel, subsistence, research assistance and material and supplies for approved research projects.

Applications are open to students, faculty members and non-affiliated scholars from any institution. Priority will be given to new applicants or former applicants with new projects.

Grants are worth up to CAD 5,000 each for one year.

Closing date 15 December 2021

Deadline Information This call is repeated once a year.

Award type Directed grants for individual investigators

Award amount max CAD 5,000

Country of applicant institution Any

[Research Grant | J R Smallwood Foundation | Memorial University of Newfoundland \(mun.ca\)](#)

5. Development innovation ventures

The Agency for International Development (USAID) invites applications for its development innovation ventures grants. These support development innovations that improve the lives of people living in poverty in the developing world. The scheme provides tiered funding to pilot, test and transition to scale innovations that demonstrate evidence of impact, cost-effectiveness and the potential to scale. DIV supports innovations across all countries and development sectors in which USAID operates, including health, education, water, energy and economic development. Funding is available in the following stages:

-stage 1 – to support piloting of innovations in a developing country context, worth up to USD 200,000;

-stage 2 – to support the further testing and expansion of innovations beyond the piloting stage, worth up to USD 1.5 million;

-stage 3 – to transition proven approaches from piloting and testing to widespread scaling in new contexts or new geographies, worth up to USD 15 million;

-evidence generation – to generate evidence on the causal impact of widely implemented development approaches that still lack sufficient rigorous evidence of impact and cost-effectiveness, worth up to USD 1.5 million. Anyone may apply, including businesses, non-profit organisations, researchers, faith-based entities and governments.

Closing date 31 October 2022

Deadline Information This call is repeated once a year.

Date added 04 November 2021

Award type Innovation grants; Directed grants to institutions, research groups etc; Prototypes and demonstrations; Technology innovation/development; Development (Africa/Caribbean)

Award amount max USD 15,000,000

Country of applicant institution Any

Nationality of researcher Any

[Development Innovation Ventures Annual Program Statement |](#)

[Development Innovation Ventures | U.S. Agency for International](#)

[Development \(usaid.gov\)](#)

6. Postdoctoral Research Visit

The Institute of Advanced Scientific Studies (IHES) invites applications for its postdoctoral research visits. These enable postdoctoral researchers to conduct research in mathematics, theoretical physics and theoretical biology at IHES.

Funding covers a visit of two years, with a possible extension of one year, starting from the following academic year.

Closing date 03 December 2021

Deadline Information This call is repeated once a year.

Award type Early-Career fellowships

Country of applicant institution Any

Nationality of researcher Any

[IHES - Applications](#)

7. Sustainability Journal travel awards

The Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, on behalf of the Sustainability Journal, invites abstracts its travel awards. These support junior scientists in attending an international conference in 2022 in the field of sustainability and sustainable development in order to give a presentation or present a poster.

Waste Recycling, Reduction & Recovery; Environmental Manufacturing; Sustainable Development & Resource Use; Renewable Energy Engineering
Applicants must be PhD students or postdoctoral fellows.

Five awards, worth CHF 600 each, are available.

Closing date 31 January 2022

Award type Travel to conferences, meetings etc.

Award amount max CHF 600

Country of applicant institution Any

[Sustainability | Awards \(mdpi.com\)](https://www.mdpi.com/Sustainability/Awards)

For Early Researchers

1. Copenhagen bioscience PhD programme

The Novo Nordisk Foundation invites applications for its Copenhagen Bioscience PhD Programme. These support international students in obtaining a PhD in a bioscience related field in Copenhagen, Denmark. The four-year programme is divided into a pre-doctoral year followed by three years of PhD training at the University of Copenhagen or the Technical University of Denmark at one of the following centres in Copenhagen:

- Novo Nordisk Foundation (NFF) center for protein research;
- NNF center for biosustainability;
- NNF center for basic metabolic research.

Applicants of all nationalities may be awarded funding. Applicants must hold, or anticipate receiving before enrolment, a university degree that formally qualifies the applicant to enter a PhD programme. The programme is also open for applicants with a Danish degree who can document at least 12 months of full-time research experience from outside Denmark, confirmed by at least one of their academic references. International applicants must also provide proof of English language skills.

Up to 16 positions are available. Full salary and tuition fee will be covered by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Funding for the first year is awarded unconditionally to all successful applicants. Funding for the following three years is awarded conditionally, to be approved following a successful qualifying assessment at the end of the first pre-doctoral year.

Closing date 17 January 2022

Deadline Information Applications due by 2pm CET.

Date added 01 November 2021

Award type Predoctoral fellowships

Award amount max DKK 800,000

Country of applicant institution Any

[Copenhagen Bioscience PhD Programme - Novo Nordisk Fonden](#)

2. Wellcome Early-Career Awards

This scheme provides funding for early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. Through innovative projects, they will deliver shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing. By the end of the award, they will be ready to lead their own independent research programme.

Where your host organisation is based: UK, Republic of Ireland, [Low- or middle-income countries \(apart from India and mainland China\)](#)

Level of funding: Salary and up to £400,000 for research expenses

Duration of funding: Usually 5 years, but may be less for some disciplines, and longer if held on a part-time basis

Host organization: You must have sponsorship from an [eligible host organisation](#) in one of the following: UK Republic of Ireland a [low- or middle-income country](#) (apart from India and mainland China).

Application Deadline: 15 February 2022, 17:00 GMT

[Early-Career Awards - Grant funding | Wellcome](#)

3. Obama Foundation Scholars Program 2022- 2023

The Obama Foundation Scholars Program at Columbia University seeks rising leaders from the United States and around the world who meet the following criteria:

- Are emerging leaders who have made meaningful contributions to their field and are now at a “breakthrough moment” in their careers
- Have a proven commitment to service and leadership within a community, region or country, coupled with a demonstrated commitment to return to these communities following their completion of the program and apply their enhanced training, skills, and connections on a long-term basis for the benefit of these communities
- Are fluent in English (verbal, written and spoken)
- Have the ability and inclination to positively shape the future of their community
- Have a demonstrated commitment to inclusivity, community-orientation, hope, courage, imagination, strategy, accountability, integrity and resilience

Deadline: December 22 at 5PM ET

<https://worldprojects.columbia.edu/application-information>

RECOGNITIONS

Scientist in world top 2% tier or with more than 100,000 citations

A group of Researchers from Stanford University, USA has published an analysis using citations from Scopus, assessing scientists for career-long citation impact up until the end of 2020 and for citation impact during the single calendar year 2020.

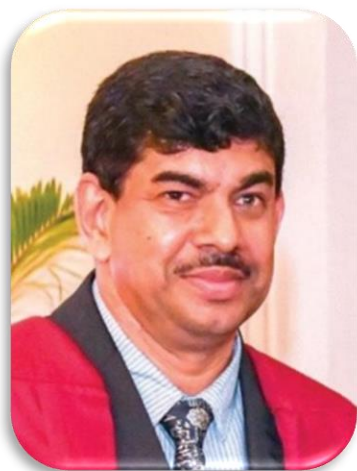
Updated databases and code are freely available via <https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/3>. This version is based on the Aug 01, 2021 snapshot from Scopus and is updated to citation year 2020.

The selection is based on the top 100,000 by c-score (with and without self-citations) or a percentile rank of 2% or above.

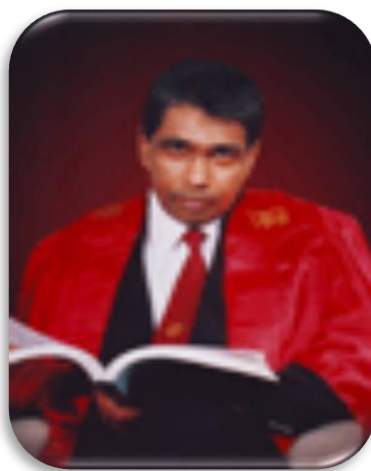
In the database published on 19 Oct 2021, the scientists given in Table 1 and 2 from the University of Peradeniya are listed. The rank is based on the composite score calculated using h index, hm index, total citations, total cites to single authored papers, total cites to single and first authored papers, and total cites to single plus first plus last authored papers.

Based on career-long citation impact up until the end of 2020

	Rank	H index	No of Citations of	
			Single authored	First authored
Prof. J.B. Ekanayake	74,027	39	77	1956
Prof. N. Senanayake	115,482	23	217	1258
Prof. C.B. Dissanayake	148,345	21	320	697
Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne	167,439	21	260	846
Dr. S.A.H.A. Suraweera	258,330	32	0	1968



Prof. J.B Ekanayake



Prof. N. Senanayake



Prof. C.B.Dissanayake



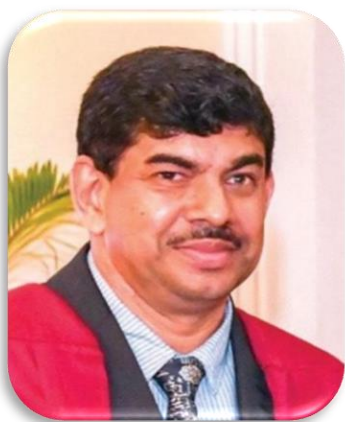
Prof. S.A.M.Kularatne



Dr. S.A.H.A.Suraweera

Based on citation impact up in 2020

	Rank	H index	No of Citations of	
			Single authored	First authored
Prof. J.B. Ekanayake	74,076	17	5	150
Prof. C.B. Dissanayake	104,451	9	58	118
Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne	108,535	8	42	152
Dr. R.P.N.P. Rajapakse	259,318	11	0	160
Dr. B.E.P. Mendis	327,164	11	0	106
Prof. N. Senanayake	349,607	6	17	63



Prof. Janaka Ekanayake



Prof. C.B. Dissanayake



Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne



Dr. R.P.N.P. Rajapakse



Dr. B.E.P. Mendis



Prof. N. Senanayake

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Research Publication Facilitation Fund

This is a scheme initiated by URC to provide financial assistance up to a maximum of USD 1000.00 per year for the researchers of the University of Peradeniya to facilitate publishing their research findings in high-ranking peer reviewed journals. We invite you to utilize this facility by downloading an application form from:

https://www.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc/doc/Application%20For%20RPFF_URC_2021

Financial assistance: USD 500 per author up to a maximum of USD 1000 per paper per year.

Eligibility:

- The applicant should be a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya and one of the authors of the journal article.
- Research work carried out by a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya completely outside the University of Peradeniya may also be eligible.
- The journal should be indexed in SCI/SSCI or SCI-expanded/SSCI-expanded journal with a journal impact of 2 or higher.
- Should use the official e-mail address with pdn domain name provided by the University of Peradeniya

Frequency: Once a calendar year.

Procedure: The applicant should fill in an application form and submit the same to the Director, URC through the Head of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty along with the original copy of the receipt for the payment of page charges and a copy of the journal article.

Others: The URC reserves the right to amend the selection criteria. The article processing charge will be reimbursed subject to the availability of funds.

Mailing Address: The Director, University Research Council, A6 Building, Udaperadeniya Road, University of Peradeniya.

E-mail Address: secretaryurc@gs.pdn.ac.lk

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology

JRDC develops globally translatable solutions for regional water problems, by engaging diverse industrial, governmental, and community experts to apply the highest levels of science and engineering. JRDC provides a range of services, as research facilities, technology development, training, and knowledge dissemination and consultancy services, required in mobilizing towards a water-secure nation, in order to engage with and address evolving water challenges.



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- Objectives**
- To identify the possible causing factors to the occurrence and distribution of the Chronic Diseases (e.g., CKD) in Sri Lanka;
 - To develop groundwater treatment methods and technologies in the dry zone of Sri Lanka;
 - To develop rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharging systems;
 - To help the Government of Sri Lanka to make an integrated water supply and sanitation infrastructure development plan, an integrated water resource management plan, and a land-use plan;
 - To be a leading center of higher education, research and training in water, health, environment, and sanitation spheres;
 - To develop linkages with public and private sector institutions related to water, environment, and sanitation sectors; and
 - To support any other related multidisciplinary science and technology research and innovations of national interest.
-

Facilities

- A three-story building constructed with a working area of 5000 m² in a land plot of 5 acres.
- Consists of laboratories, lecture facilities, a piloting area, accommodation and a cafeteria.
- Laboratories consist of 70 sophisticated testing equipment worth over Rs.600 M excluding taxes and duties.

Five main laboratories are as follows:

General laboratory: facilitates water and wastewater quality parameter testing. Laboratory tests includes: pH, EC, Turbidity, Color, DO, COD, Nitrite Nitrogen, Nitrate Nitrogen, Formaldehyde, Volatile phenol, Cyanide, Fluoride, Chloride, etc



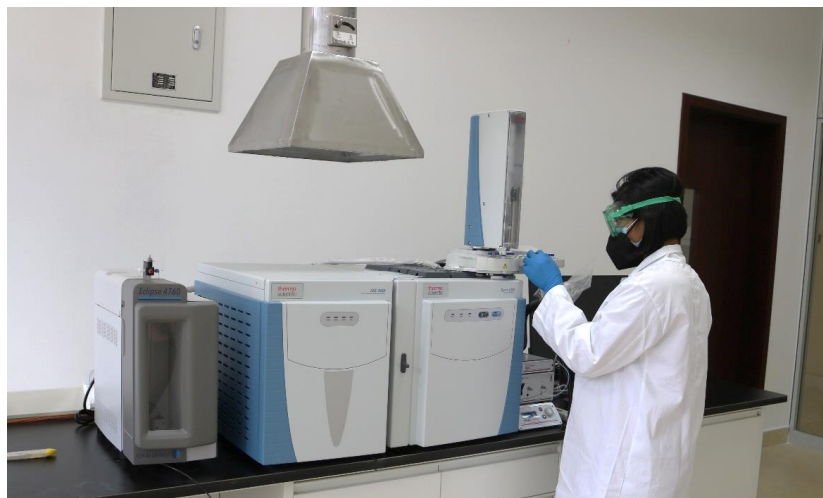
Inorganic laboratory: equipped with inductively Coupled Plasma –Mass Spectrometer, Ion Chromatograph and Atomic Fluorescence spectrophotometer. The laboratory caters following analytical services: heavy metals, anions, and mercury



Interface laboratory: consists of particle analyzer, BET Specific Surface Area Analyzer and Ultraviolet Spectrophotometer. The key parameters include: surface area, zeta potential, particle size, total phosphorous, etc.



Volatile organic laboratory: endowed with Gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer+sniffer monitor, Gas chromatography/tandem quadrupole mass spectrometry, and Gas Chromatograph (ECD detector + FID detector+autosampler). The laboratory caters following analytical needs: volatile phenol, volatile organic compounds (odor), trihalomethanes, etc.



Non-volatile organic laboratory: equipped with High Performance Liquid Chromatography, Ultra High Performance Liquid Chromatography Tandem quadrupole mass spectrometry, Total Organic Carbon Analyzer and Carbon, Hydrogen, Nitrogen (CHN) elemental analyzer. Following are among key analytical services that the laboratory can cater: pesticides, pharmaceutical, C, H, N percentage, TOC



Website: www.jrdc.lk

UPCOMING EVENTS

The University Research Council is pleased to inform you that the **10th International Conference on Fermented Foods, Health Status and Social Well-being** is scheduled to be held on **17th & 18th of December 2021** as a hybrid event at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

During the past twenty years the conference has been organized mainly in India as a biennial event by the Swedish South Asian Network on Fermented Foods (SASNET-FF). This year it will be organized jointly by The University Research Council of University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and SASNET-FF in association with SASNET-Lund University, Sweden; Dr. Varghese Kurien Centre of Excellence, Institute of Rural Management, Anand, India; Copenhagen University, Denmark; Kamdhenu University, India; Anand Agricultural University, India; Indian Dairy Association (Gujarat State), Gut Microbiota and Probiotic Science Foundation India, Probiotic Association of India and University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

The conference aims at providing a platform for academicians, researchers, clinicians, nutritionists, social workers, industry personnel and students to present, discuss and debate their research findings pertaining to fermented foods, their health benefits and emerging production technologies.

For Registration please click the following link:

<https://www.pdn.ac.lk/ic/sasnet/>

For further details click the following link:

<https://www.pdn.ac.lk/ic/sasnet-ff/>

NEWS

The University Research Council had organized the Tier 4* Researcher Awards - 2020 at the closing ceremony of iPURSE on the 12th of November 2021.

In the year of 2020, URC decided to recognize researchers belonging to academic staff categories of the University of Peradeniya who have fulfilled the minimum requirements for the Tier 4* category based on the transparent research 05/2018 performance scheme stipulated in the UGC circular.

The Senate of the University of Peradeniya at its 460th meeting held on June 09, 2021 and the 505th Council meeting held on June 28, 2021 approved and confirmed the list of 28 awardees. URC is pleased to congratulate all the awardees.



Tier 4* Researcher Awardees – 2020

No.	Name	Faculty
01	Prof.W.M.T.Madhujith	Agriculture
02	Prof.B.Marambe	
03	Prof.M.I.M.Mowjood	
04	Prof.S.P.Nissanka	
05	Prof.B.M.L.D.B.Suriyagoda	
06	Dr.A.D.Igalavithana	
07	Dr.B.E.P.Mendis	
08	Dr.R.P.N.P.Rajapakse	
09	Dr.K.W.L.K.Weerasinghe	
10	Dr.W.M.G.M.B.Bowatte	Allied Health Sciences
11	Dr.A.C.M.Fahim	
12	Dr.M.H.F.Sakeena	
13	Prof.S.L.Ekanayake	Dental Sciences
14	Prof.W.M.Tilakaratne	
15	Prof.M.A.R.M.Fernando	Engineering
16	Prof.K.B.S.N.Jinadasa	
17	Prof.R.G.Ragel	
18	Prof.S.D.Dharmaratne	Medicine
19	Prof.N.S.Kalupahana	
20	Prof.M.K.Prasad	
21	Prof.R.L.R.Chandrajith	Science
22	Prof.D.N.Karunaratne	
23	Prof.N.L.V.V.Karunaratne	
24	Prof.S.H.P.P.Karunaratne	
25	Prof.A.D.L.C.Perera	
26	Prof.H.M.D.N.Priyantha	
27	Prof.R.S.Rajakaruna	
28	Prof.R.P.V.J.Rajapakse	Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science

ANALYSIS

The art of not being international

by
Danture Wickramasinghe
University of Glasgow
United Kingdom



Professor Danture Wickramasinghe is the Chair in Management Accounting and the Director of PhD programme in Accounting and Finance at Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow. Previously, he was the Chair in Management Accounting and the Director of Research Centre in Accounting and Accountability at Hull University of Business School and a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer and the Programme Director of MSc in Accounting and Finance at Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, where he was also the coordinator of the Management Accounting Module on the Global MBA Programme. Before moving to the United Kingdom, he was the Dean of the Faculty of Management & Finance and the Head of the Department of Commerce at the University of Colombo, Head of Department of Business Administration, and a Lecturer/Senior lecturer at the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. Being an academic over a period of 39 years, Danture is now globally known as a critical researcher in accounting in developing countries. His international visibility is evidenced in his extensive profile of publications in reputed journals, including *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, *Auditing and Accountability Journal*; *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*; *Accounting and Business Research*; *Accounting & Organizational Change*; *Qualitative Research in Accounting and Management*; and *Accounting in Emerging Economies*.

Studying and working as an academic in three British universities over the last 30 years, I write this short note to draw your attention to a fundamental issue the Sri Lankan social science (including management) faculties are now facing.

The issue is the mushrooming of faculty-based annual conferences and journals where most Sri Lankan academics (except some exceptional researchers) in the social sciences and management are presenting and publishing. This is not the case in the UK and many other Western countries – we don't have university-based conferences and journals. Instead, here in the West, we present at internationally established conferences where authorities of respective fields of research are attending and publish in internationally reputed, well-ranked journals. We spend years (on average, 2 to 4 years) to get a quality paper published in such a journal. Conference presentation is only a beginning in this journey. We don't count conference proceedings as publications.

My random investigation of the papers being published in the faculty-based journals in Sri Lanka have several fundamental issues which qualify them not to be international. First, the research questions they address are not academic enough as most think research questions are equal to practical problems which require immediate solutions. Of course, as researchers, we need to guide practices and policymaking but before doing this, we must do the research on that problem by asking an unexplored academic question which can enlighten our understanding of what is going on and why the things are happening in a particular manner. For this, as social scientists, we may use a suitable social theory to make sense of the story around the question being posed. In local publications, I cannot see studies with right academic questions. Instead, in a so-called problem statement, they write some 'practical' problems in a particular situation.

Second, most of these publications do not refer to a contemporary academic debate or to a vibrant research theme appearing in authoritative, international journals. Research is inherently international. A local story in Sri Lanka must be an interesting one to be read by an academic from another country. To make it interesting, it is important to link the local story to such a broader research debate/theme.

In the literature review section of the paper, we make this link through navigating a debate/theme to find a gap in which our research questions are located. In this way, we may contribute to that debate/theme. Unfortunately, this is not happening in these faculty-based journal publications. As a result, they are not genuinely international.

Third, most of these local articles predominantly rely on one methodology which I always call 'the methodology'. It is the hypothetico-deductive, scientific methodology which aims to test hypotheses using quantitative methods. Instead, in the West, researchers promote alternatives as well. They can be ethnographic studies or historical and archival studies with interdisciplinary approaches. For example, in my own accounting research trajectory, as camp of researchers in the world, we take historical, sociological, and anthropological approaches and conduct qualitative case studies (mostly ethnographic) to understand what is going on and why things happen in the way we see them. We try to see accounting as a social and institutional practice beyond its technical imperatives. In contrast, most Sri Lankan universities tend to (unfairly) urge the undergraduate and postgraduate students to follow 'the methodology' giving little academic freedom to think beyond orthodoxies. As I have read 1000s of research proposals, this is the case in many developing countries including the Middle East. This lack of methodological diversity in research is another feature of 'under-development'.

Forth, most articles are prescriptive. While the articles being published in top-ranked international journals extend the current understanding of a particular research debate/themes, most social science researchers in Sri Lanka think that research is to 'quickly solve' a practical problem so that they have 'recommendations' at the end of most articles. I have seen that, at conferences, the presenters are asked a typical question: what are your recommendations? Recommendations can be offered by consultancy/policy reports. In an academic article in the social sciences, we offer a 'conclusion' arguing how current understanding of a phenomenon (in a debate/theme) can be extended and how future researchers should be carried out based on such conclusions and arguments. After conclusions, there may be a short paragraph for policy implications. Beyond such publications, to make them impactful, researchers may translate their research publications into accessible outcomes such as policy briefs, practitioner articles, newspaper coverages, exhibitions, films, and so forth. We cannot do these if there is no real academic study to draw on.

So, there is an art of not being international. Consequently, young academics tend to publish in these journals for gaining the confirmation in their posts and for ascending the academic ladder, thinking it is the way things should happen. Moreover, university teaching in the social sciences is not research informed because the kind of research has little impact on the development of research-informed teaching. Social science and management faculties 'sustain' through such local publications and research-less teaching. So, they are adversely ranked according to global university ranking regimes (of course there are other factors being considered in university ranking).

What is needed is making research international by addressing the above key issues. Resources must be directed at making top-ranked international journals and well-established international conferences accessible for Sri Lankan researchers. Moreover, as new technologies (such as Zoom and Teams) have opened new opportunities to work remotely, they can embark on new collaborative projects with researchers from foreign universities. Working with the colleagues from other disciplines (agriculture, medicine, science, and engineering) can enhance the quality of research which can be publishable in top-ranked reputed journals. Consequently, one day, so-called local journals would be abandoned.

The above are authors views and URC invites critiques for ideas expressed by author. I am sure there are researchers for argument pictured by the author and there are researchers against it. A constructive dialogue among the two groups would definitely help to enhance our research directions and culture. I invite you to express your views.

Prof. Janaka Ekanayake, Director/URC