



## INNOVATION FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

**Hotel Cinnamon Grand, Colombo**  
**19 June 2025, 09:00am – 12:45pm (Colombo)**

### ABOUT THE EVENT

The “Serendipity Knowledge Program” (SKOP) is ADB’s knowledge program dedicated to Sri Lanka, designed to respond effectively to the country’s needs in line with the vision of ADB as a knowledge solutions bank. SKOP seeks to share knowledge on issues relevant to Sri Lanka and facilitate discussion among stakeholders.

Innovation is recognized as a major factor contributing to economic transformation. It drives global competitiveness and inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Innovation leads to higher growth through productivity gains and transforms economies by shifting resources to produce more complex goods in productive sectors. High value production facilitates access to global and regional value chains and diverse markets, creates better jobs, changes economic structures, and improves living standards. This SKOP event will focus on bringing new perspectives to support the government to define and strengthen its role and capacity to drive the development of the national innovation ecosystem. It will also explore the role of universities as hubs of innovation. The event will seek to catalyze a long-term engagement among the government, international experts, and other stakeholders to support strengthening the national innovation ecosystem.

The event will feature a keynote speech, panel discussions, and networking opportunities with experts from both public and private sectors. This event will be attended by stakeholders including senior government officials, including the Honorable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, leading private sector representatives, think tanks, other development partners, civil society, and ADB staff.

### AGENDA

**Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Savithri Rodrigo**

Time	Item
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Registration of Participants</b>
09:30 – 09:35	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <i>Takafumi Kadono, Country Director for Sri Lanka, ADB</i>
09:35 – 09:55	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <i>Harini Amarasuriya, Honorable Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Sri Lanka</i>
09:55 - 10:00	<b>Video</b>

Time	Item
	<i>"Education for Innovation"- outcomes of the Science and Technology Human Resources Development Project</i>
10:00 - 10:20	<p><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <p><i>"Innovation for Economic Transformation – The Role of the Government"</i></p> <p><i>Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value and Founding Director of Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London</i></p>
10:20 – 11:10	<p><b>Panel discussion 1- Building the Innovation Ecosystem</b></p> <p><b>Panel members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Lerwen Liu, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i></li> <li><i>Gomika Udugamasooriya, Senior Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka on Science and Technology</i></li> <li><i>Damith Pallegatte, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Hatton National Bank</i></li> <li><i>Jeevan Gnanam, Co-Founder, Hatch</i></li> <li><i>Heminda Jayaweera, Co-founder and Director, 3-H Innovations</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Takafumi Kadono, Country Director for Sri Lanka, ADB</i></p>
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Questions and answers</b>
11:30 – 12:15	<p><b>Panel discussion 2 – Aligning Education to Support Innovation</b></p> <p><b>Panel Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Nalaka Kaluwewa, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education</i></li> <li><i>Gi Soon Song, Director, Human and Social Development, Sectors Department 3, ADB</i></li> <li><i>Rajendra Mootha, Head - New Initiatives, IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation</i></li> <li><i>K. L. Wasantha Kumara, Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka</i></li> </ul>

Time	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>C. S. Lewangamage, Project Director, Science and Technology Human Resources Development Project</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Unika Shrestha, Social Sector Economist, ADB</i></p>
12:15 – 12:30	<b>Questions and answers</b>
12: 30 – 12:35	<b>Feedback from Participants</b>
12:35 – 12:45	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ayako Inagaki, Senior Director, Human and Social Development, Sectors Department 3, ADB</i></li> <li><i>Shiranthi Rathnayake, Director General, Department of National Planning; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.</i></li> </ul>
12:45	<b>Lunch</b>