GDRC and Horizon 2020

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University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka (UGC) has invited GDRC Professors Dilanthi Amaratunga and Richard Haigh to lead a session on Horizon 2020, the largest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020).

Horizon 2020, the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, began in January 2014 and offers vast opportunities for funding and networking for organisations from the South Asian Region. On the 2nd December 2014, GDRC at the University of Huddersfield, UK with the support from CASCADE project and also along with the EU office in Colombo are organising an event at the UGC under the direction of its Professor Ranjtih Senaratne, Vice Chairman of the UGC.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is the apex body of the University System in Sri Lanka which. The functions of the UGC are; planning and coordination of university education, allocation of funds to Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), maintenance of academic standards, regulation of the administration of HEIs and regulation of admission of students to HEIs. Its vision is to be an excellent regulatory body which guide, develop and sustain a network of 'Centers of Excellence' in higher education meeting the national needs and aspirations in keeping with global trends.

All 15 Sri Lankan universities are under its umbrella: <u>University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, University of Sri</u>
<u>Jayewardenepura, University of Kelaniya, University of Moratuwa, University of Jaffna, University of Ruhuna, The Open University of Sri Lanka, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Uva Wellassa University, University of the Visual & Performing Arts</u>

Vice Chancellors of all these universities along with other scientists have been invited to the event. This will also provide a real opportunity for GDRC to further extent its links across all the universities in Sri Lanka

This event is linked with CASCADE Project, which is led by Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga and funded under the *European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n*° 609562. *Please visit*

Please visit http://www.cascade-inconet.eu for further information on the CASCADE project.

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