

## Press Release

### APIIT SIGNS MOU WITH NESTLÉ LANKA PLC FOR APIIT අත්වැල



#### PHOTO CAPTION

*Front left to right: Mr. Jason Avanceña, Managing Director of Nestlé Lanka PLC and Dr. Hasuli Perera, Head of APIIT Business School.*

*Standing left to right: Mr. Jagath Wedage, Senior Vice President/Head of Sales, Nestlé Lanka PLC, Dr. Chathura Warnasuriya, Head of APIIT Law School, Mr. Gamindu Hemachandra, Chief Academic Officer of APIIT, Mr. Bandula Egodage, Chairman of APIIT, and Dr. Rohantha Athukorala, Head of Graduate School and School of Computing of APIIT.*

The inaugural APIIT අත්වැල project by APIIT Business School in collaboration with Nestlé Lanka PLC aims to uplift the business of small-scale traders and enterprises. The collaboration was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, with Dr. Hasuli Perera, Head of APIIT Business School and Mr. Jason Avanceña, Managing Director of Nestlé Lanka PLC as the signatories.

With the signing of the MoU, representatives of Nestlé Lanka PLC will now conduct a series of focused workshops to train the Business School students on practical aspects of running a small trading business, such

as merchandising, stock control, and working capital management as part of this retailer business development programme. In turn, each student will work with one traditional street-based local trader in their neighborhood to assist this small-scale retailer to better optimise resources and manage operations in the current turbulent environment.

Speaking about the project, Head of APIIT Business School, Dr. Hasuli Perera said that “the අන්වැල project is a unique learning experience that will inspire students to uplift the lives of others, which in this instance is the small-scale trader community, while giving them an opportunity to learn the practicalities of the small-scale retail sector.

Addressing the gathering, the Managing Director of Nestlé Lanka PLC, Mr. Jason Avanceña said “We are pleased to work with APIIT to uplift rural communities by educating Sri Lanka’s future generation – our youth – about the local retail industry in fulfillment of Nestlé Lanka’s purpose of unlocking the power of food to enhance quality of life for people and communities we work with”.

APIIT Sri Lanka conducts undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes in Business, Computing, and Law, awarded by Staffordshire University, UK. With a current student population of over 2,000 students and an annual intake close to 1000 students, APIIT Sri Lanka is the largest provider of British degree programmes in Sri Lanka. Over the past 22 years, APIIT has produced more than 4,000 resourceful and enterprising graduates and set a benchmark for quality and standards in private higher education in Sri Lanka.

APIIT Sri Lanka’s purpose is to revolutionize the higher education landscape in the country by igniting a passion for the intrinsic value of learning to nurture future leaders who will uplift lives. APIIT අන්වැල will be the first of a series of programs powering partnerships with leading business organisations in the country that will enable APIIT students to make a meaningful and tangible impact on community.