

Consultative Meeting -Skills Strategy Action Plan-Matale

A discussion was conducted at the District Secretariat, Matale on 7th of June 2022, with the intention of preparing a Skills Strategy Action Plan, related to Tourism venture, with the relevant partners in Matale District. This discussion was chaired by Ms. Chamila Atapaththu, Additional District Secretary and Ms. Sammani Wijesooriya, Assistant District Secretary, under the blessings of Ms. Thejani Thilakarathne, District Secretary, Matale. Ms. Sharanya Ravikumar, Senior Manager- Planning Research, presented a comprehensive introduction to the Skills for Inclusive growth, and the importance of preparing a Skills Strategy Action Plan for the District. Professor Sunil Chandrasiri made a presentation on the following matters, for the attention and information of the participants.



- Rationale for selecting Matale District, for the SSAP preparation.
- COVID 19 impact
- Labour Market Analysis
- SSAP Process
- Potential benefits of the SSAP program

At the end of this session, it was discussed the relevant matter with the participants, and they have pointed out the following matters based on Tourism and Skills.

- Adequate resources and facilities are available in Matale district for the promotion of Paragliding, which is very rare in Sri Lanka and there is a possibility of attracting tourists to these centres, where these events are functioning. Trained groups in these events are very minimum at present and it could be promoted island wide, through training and developing skills among interested groups.
- Introducing activities for the tourists, to use mountain bicycle tracks, developing Rock line along the Dumbara Mountains.
- Introducing and training of groups on innovative events (Water Crafting/ Bush walking etc.), having identified and developed rivers, creeks with aesthetic values and attractive environmental areas in Matale district.

- Improving scientific environmental knowledge, among forest conservation groups and tourist advisors, associating tourists, and providing clear information through improved Landscape knowledge.
- It will be possible to protect tourists from accidents and introduce traditional treatment (Water treatment) and preparing a system to train and improve knowledge of tourist guides in indigenous first aid and care.
- Conducting a food festival, exhibiting identified indigenous foods, and demonstrating traditional cooking and food preparation systems.
- There are about 10 tea estates within the Knuckles range and it can generate a big amount of money, through tourism, exhibiting many location in these areas, such as second tea estate, horse riding, beautiful train travelling, traditional villages, immaculate tropical jungle environments etc.
- Through developing skills in Batiks fabric work, and gem cutting, it is suggested to establish or develop indigenous small and cottage industries to cater the needs for Matale district.
- Indigenous industries such as Laksha/ Sesath are still remaining at an undeveloped status, and it can initiate innovative systems to create a market for their produces.
- Identifying environmental systems, animal parks, mountains, creeks & water ways, waterfalls, traditional location, and ruins etc., in the district and collecting substantiative historical details and establish a link utilizing innovative technology and through training of tour guide groups, obtain useful services to the tourism industry.
- As there are many numbers of spice gardens in the district, it should arrange to provide training and coordination to develop these locations to provide better serves to the tourists.
- It has established a Mobil Tourist Information Center, at the District Secretariat, and It would be necessary to develop this Centre to provide knowledge and information related to the tourism industry, provide technical assistance in indigenous industry training and business, training, business registration, and coordinating among institutions, managing resources, and contribute to the development of the tourism industry to Explore on the incubation model in Matale.
- Although it has knowledge to develop business for the differently abled persons, It would be necessary to establish a system to provide technical training for them to reach the higher market and continue.
- Developing a documentary video “Wonderful Matale”, by the media unit, Matale, and publish in the society.

The above matters are listed out according to the ideas and suggestions provided by the participants.

Consultative Meeting -Skills Strategy Action Plan-Anuradhapura

The discussion was chaired by Mr.W.G.M. Wanasinghe, Additional District Secretary, Anuradhapura on 8th of June 2022. Welcoming all the participants, at the discussion on Skills Strategy Action Plan, it was given a brief introduction of Anuradhapura District. The presentation consisted of the following matters;

- Ancient capital
- 22 Divisional Secretariats
- 694 Grama Niladhari Divisions
- Population of 1,019,321
- 320,267 families
- Majority is farmers

At the end of this session, it was discussed the relevant matter with the participants, and they have pointed out the following matters based on Tourism and Skills.

- Improving the skills of the youth by providing the Labs required for skill development.
- The Youth Services Council proposed to create an environment conducive to focusing on tourism and foreign employment through language skills.
- NAITA, a vocational training institute, will set up an RPL Center for trained teams to increase the likelihood of adopting that methodology, which will enable them to qualify and use it to develop their skills.



- Provide the necessary technical knowledge and guidance to the disabled groups to enhance the self-employment they are currently pursuing and to advance the women and provide them with the technical know-how required to enter a very high-level market through small businesses.
- Guidance is very important for the development of the existing tourism industry in the Anuradhapura District and to develop a methodology to attract tourists to these districts through the use of new technologies developed as tour guides. (Ex: - Gamification).

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