

EMPLOYERS' NATIONAL NETWORK OF YOUTH INITIATIVES

Let us show you the way to the World of Work



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ENNYI
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Background

Youth employment remains a critical issue for policy makers, youth and families in Sri Lanka. Unemployment rates within the age group of 15 – 19 years remain close to 20% more than fourfold the one of adults, while young girls show rates higher than their male counterparts. In addition the rates of the unemployed amongst individuals holding a tertiary educational qualification are close to 12%. Productive and well-structured internships are recognized as an instrument to increase youth productivity and employability, facilitate school to work transition and enhance the level of job readiness of young graduates. Moreover, they provide young people with opportunities to expand their level of knowledge of the work environment and of specific jobs, allowing for a more conscious choice of the future career path.

The National Human Resources and Employment Policy (NHREP), the overarching policy framework of the Government of Sri Lanka, explicitly calls for a “Public-Private partnership in the provision of internships and on-the-job training”. The Policy further encourages industry participation in providing more opportunities within the vocational training system. Special emphasis was made on the need to better equip students pursuing higher education and professional qualifications with multi-skills. The youth of today require training on how to acquire generic skills, life skills including soft skills and positive work ethics to appropriately enter the world of work. Meanwhile the National Youth Policy calls for “Enhanced participation of youth in the economy” by creating conditions for the effective transition of youth from education to work and for enhancing employment opportunities with fairness and equity. In Sri Lanka, internships were traditionally available in the banking and apparel sectors, or with selected multinationals. Notably, the circumstances are evolving, with more and more organisations offering opportunities for university and vocational training graduates.

Employers’ National Network of Youth Initiatives (ENNYI)

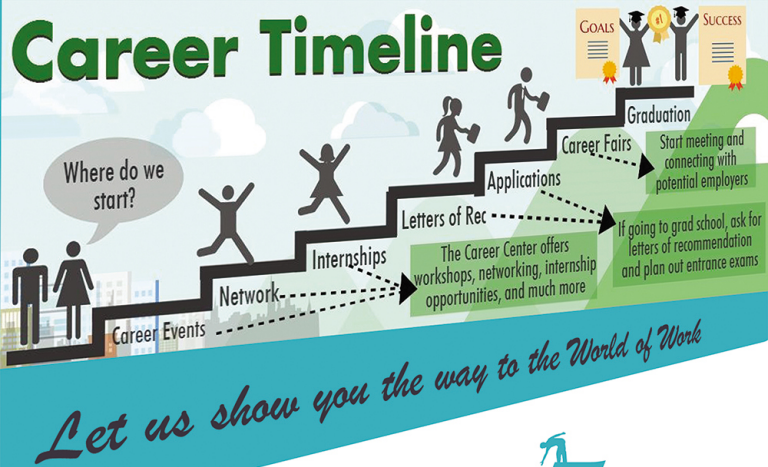
This initiative would not have been possible if not for the support of our members who have continued to demonstrate their commitment towards creating opportunities for the youth of this country so that they could get a glimpse into the world of work and the issues involved.

ENNYI will also benefit employers/businesses as it would give you an opportunity to earmark competent young Undergraduates/Graduates and professionals to be selected as future candidates for employment in your organizations.

To facilitate this process ENNYI has created a common portal www.empowerme.lk for both employers as well as undergraduates/graduate students from Universities in Sri Lanka in order to make full use of the prospects. Our objective is to help save resources that would have otherwise been spent by both stakeholders in achieving these common objectives.

ENNYI will first tie up with the Universities of Colombo, Kelaniya and Ruhuna and thereafter, as the program expands, extend itself for the benefit of students from other Universities & Institutes in Sri Lanka. During the first phase, ENNYI will offer ‘internships’ to undergraduates, and with the second phase offer more opportunities in the form of ‘apprenticeships’ and ‘training programs’. Training modules conducted by the EFC / Associates will include those relating to ‘soft skills’, ‘career counselling’ and enhancing ‘English language competence’ etc. The program will further strengthen the career counselling units of the respective universities.

Career Timeline



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OBJECTIVES

- > Increase the number of young people benefiting from productive internship opportunities nationwide
- > Increase the overall quality of the internship experience, so as to actually contribute to the employability of the intern and the maximization of both the social and private return of the initiative.
- > Ensure equal opportunities to access merit based internship positions while allowing employers to be able to identify and recruit motivated and capable individuals. This will involve students coming from less disadvantaged backgrounds, notably from rural areas but studying in the National Universities to gain access to the world of work.



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