



Center for Development Research and Interventions

Address : 16, Jawatta Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka: Tele : +94115680799/+94718358526,

Email : cdrisrilanka@gmail.com, Web: www.cdri.lanka.com

Potential members of the Network for the Advancement of Solutions to emerging Issues

Background:

Covid19 pandemic has posed not only an unprecedented health challenge to the whole world but also a social and economic one to almost all countries across the globe. Since human mobility is the main means of its spread, the need for a drastic curtailment of spatial mobility of people within and across countries has imposed severe restrictions on human activities. The economic and social impact of such restrictions has been severe, disrupting long established production, consumption and many public and private services. Though it is hoped that the suppression of the virus through immunization of people against it will allow economies and societies to slowly get back to normal functioning, the restoration of livelihoods, economic and social networks and diverse human and other services is likely to take some time.

On the other hand, the pandemic emerged in the world at a time when humanity was already faced with a range of other challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, chronic social and economic inequality and violent conflicts and political tensions threatening the wellbeing of people in many countries. Several global initiatives on climate change and sustainable development were already in place when covid19 pandemic emerged in China in January this year. While global efforts to address persisting and emerging issues are critically important, innovative interventions at other levels such as national and local have become as important. In other words, innovative solutions to economic, social, psychological and environmental issues at a community level need to be found, not only to address immediate problems faced by people at the grass-roots but also to complement diverse initiatives on national and global levels. Academics, researchers and development practitioners in different countries who are closer to ground realities can play a significant role in observing, documenting, facilitating and promoting innovative and sustainable solutions to problems faced by people at the grassroots level.

In this background, the Center for Development Research and Interventions (CDRI), Sri Lanka, as a community oriented research organization comprising academics drawn from the University of Colombo and several other academic institutions and development practitioners with the generous support of Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE), UK will be implementing a project “Network for the Advancement of Solutions to Emerging Issues (NEASE)”.

The project is intended to bring academics, researchers and development practitioners who are already in a position to play one or more of the above roles in different countries. So, the ideal candidates for the membership of the proposed network may belong to one or more of the following categories.

- a) Academics, researchers and development practitioners who have taken an active interest in persisting and emerging economic, social, psychological and environmental issues, particularly following the onset of the pandemic,
- b) Academics and researchers who have undertaken research on new and innovative community level interventions to address issues in the above areas,
- c) Organizations and individuals who are making an effort to develop new models of mobilizing individuals, communities, technological and other resources to find solutions to various problems mentioned above,
- d) Social entrepreneurs who are exploring alternative, sustainable paths to development with a focus on hunger, poverty, inequality, gender gap and new international partnerships,
- e) Individual men, women and youths who have taken their own initiative to explore and try out innovative ways to address issues of development and wellbeing of people in their own communities.