





#### SRI LANKA'S PREMIER STARTUP CONFERENCE AND INNOVATION FESTIVAL

#### **POST EVENT** REPORT

#### WHY WAS DISRUPT ASIA 2018 ORGANIZED

The number of technology related start-ups in Sri Lanka have grown over the last several years. While a considerable number have succeeded, quite a number of start-ups have also failed due to several reasons. One of the major reasons for the failures of start-ups is not having the proper guidance/ mentoring as well as financial issues.

With this in mind, Sri Lanka's first ever startup conference and showcase called Disrupt Asia was organized in 2016 by the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka on by bringing some of the best in the ecosystem as well as start-up veterans from Sri Lanka and around the world to share their experience with new start-up founders and address many burning questions budding entrepreneurs have. The event consisted of a conference, startup showcase, networking evening and an investor forum.

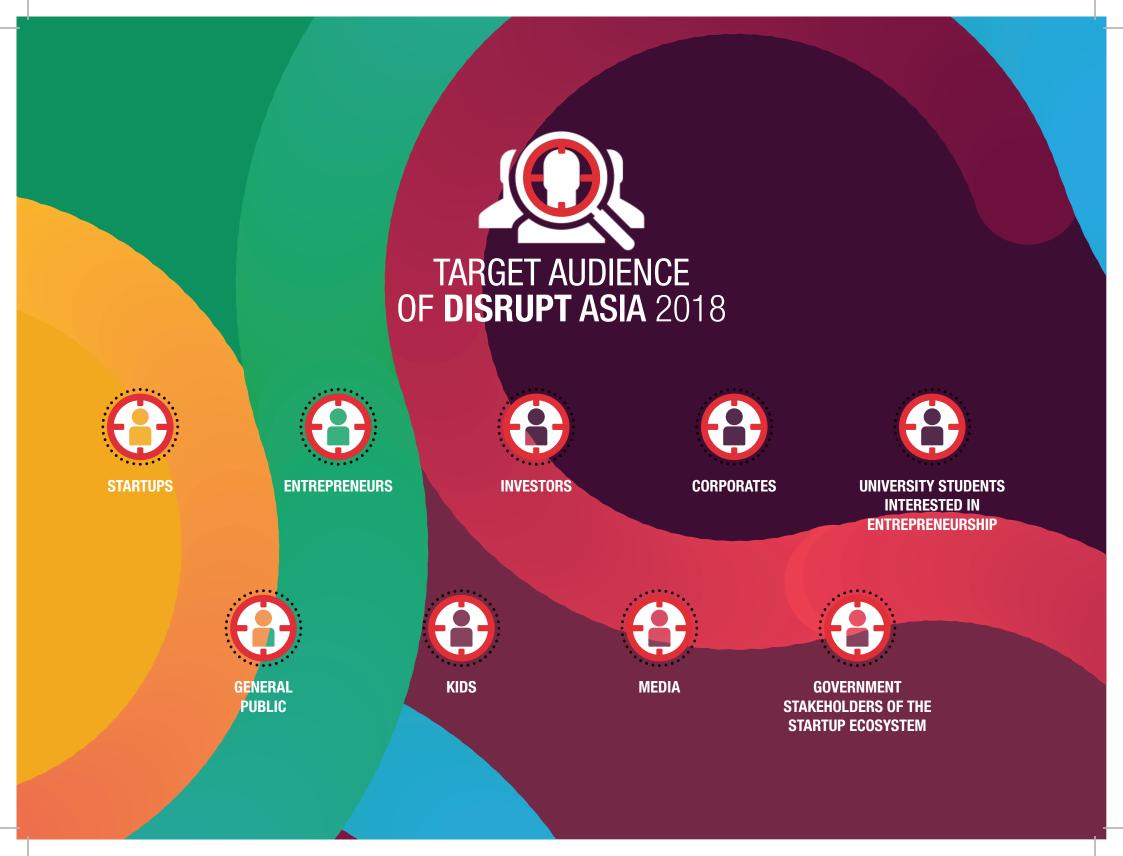
SRI LANKA'S PREMIER STARTUP

NEEBENCE AN

Building on the success of 2016, Disrupt Asia returned for a second year in 2017. In addition to the existing features of the event, an academic forum, workshops for entrepreneurs and investor speed dating was also added.

Disrupt Asia is now considered to be "a celebration of the startup ecosystem" where all stakeholders convene under one roof to share knowledge, network and create a spark that could create a change.

In 2018, Disrupt Asia was expanded from a conference and startup showcase to a conference and innovation festival to showcase innovations from different fields and for different demographics so as to promote the STEAM Education which is a key pillar of Innovation ecosystem.



#### THE CONFERENCE AT DISRUPT ASIA 2018

The primary activity of Disrupt Asia 2018 was the conference. More than 50 speakers across a broad range of expertise shared their knowledge and experience through panel discussions and individual talks during the event.

#### **Opening Session**

The conference started off at 4.00pm on the 11th of August 2018 with the welcome remarks by the CEO of ICTA Mr. Damith Hettihewa. In his remarks, the CEO noted the efforts of the ICTA towards uplifting of the startup ecosystem of Sri Lanka and the impacts it has made.

This was followed by the opening keynote of the day delivered by the Managing Director - XLr8 Andhra Pradesh Technology Business Accelerator Mr. Glenn Robinson on the topic "Creating a Successful Innovation Ecosystem". He spoke on the work he has done around the world helping regional and national

governments to build innovation ecosystem and some of his experiences in that process.

Following the keynote, the first panel discussion of the day was held on the topic "Strategy and Policy: Will it change anything?" where it was discussed if policies set by the government on innovation and entrepreneurship can help change mindsets or accelerate the growth of ecosystem.

After this the conference was split into parallel sessions.



# Main Stage

•

0

The main stage was where majority of the sessions were conducted. The sessions conducted were;

• Disrupting Creative Industries

• Success in Failure

Mythbusting Social Entrepreneurship

• Raising a Million Dollars

Stage 2.0

0

Due to time constraints, the conference was held in two rooms in parallel. In addition to the sessions in the Main Stage, several more sessions were conducted at Stage 2.0. They are

- It's time to STEAM Education
- Changing Landscape of Digital Marketing
- Securing a Connected Society
- AI, A Technology without an alternative?





## • Workshops

•

0

Several workshops were also held in parellel for the participants on various different topics. They are

- Growth hacking tacktics for startups by GBG Colombo
- Fostering open innovation with corporates by Ankur Mehta
- Basics of monetising on YouTube by IdeaHell
- Building Facebook chat bots by Facebook Developer Circle

#### **Investor** Forum

An exclusive short investor forum was also organized for professionals who wish to become angel investors for technology startups. Two panel discussions were held in this forum.

• A knowledge sharing session by experienced angel investors

Legal procedures applicable to startup financing



#### **Closing Session**

The closing session of Disrupt Asia 2018 started off with the Grand Finale of the Disrupt Asia Startup Battle. The finalists pitched to a panel of eminent judges who selected the top two winners.

• Next up was the closing keynote of the conference by Nick Marino

Jr., the Director of Social Change at TangoTab. He spoke on why

entreprenuers need to look at solving problem with empathy towards

to end user in mind. According to him, this is how you give back to the

• world while also doing a business.

The keynote was well received and appreciated by all those who attended the conference.

The conference ended with the awarding of the prizes for the Startup Battle winners.



#### DISRUPT ASIA 2018 STARTUP BATTLE

The Disrupt Asia Startup Battle was organized this year for the 2nd time. 49 startups applied for the battle out of which 20 startups were shortlisted and selected to pitch in the semi-finals. For those who pitched, the top 4 were selected to pitch at the Grand Finale at the Main Stage of Disrupt Asia 2018 from which the winner and runner-up were selected.

The 4 startups that pitched at the Finals were



The winners of the Startup Battle were given a cash prize of LKR 300,000.00 while the runner-up was given LKR 150,000.00.

The two winners were also given free company valuation by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) Sri Lanka and a trip to Oslo Innovation Week 2018 in Norway by IKT Norge and SLASSCOM.



#### DISRUPT ASIA 2018 INNOVATION FESTIVAL

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) is the next generation of learning promoting the convergence of the above subjects to create a generation that is ready for the future in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. A future ready workforce is important for the sustainability of the economy of the country as well as to ensure that the next generation is not left out of the fast-moving technology age.

It is with this in mind that the Disrupt Asia 2018 Innovation Festival organized to showcase innovations from different fields and for different demographics so as to promote the innovation ecosystem which is a key pillar of STEAM education.

The innovation festival consisted of startups showcasing their innovations, an inclusion pavilion where assistive and accessibility technology by universities, organizations and startups were showcased, a creative industries pavilion where startups engaged in game development in Sri Lanka showcased their products, digital activation, art installations, light based installations together with food and music to give the event a festival atmosphere.

#### STARTUPS THAT WERE SHOWCASED AT DISRUPT ASIA 2018

- 1. Alpha Numb
- 2. Autochatic
- 3. DirectPay
- 4. eLearning.lk
- 5. ezBooking
- 6. Giftup.lk
- 7. Greasemonkey Automobile
- 8. Helios
- 9. Hoom
- 10. iLoan
- 11. Interact Digital
- 12. iPlayDeal
- 13. Jolyper
- 14. Kripter
- International
- 15. Landlord+

- 16. Maturify
  - 17. MyTuition
  - 18. oDoc
- 19. Onboard.mv (from Maldives)
- 20. Park and Pay
- 21. Payer (from Maldives)
- 22. Pikanite
- 23. SenzAgro Solutions
- 24. Sixer Video
- 25. Strive.lk
- 26. The Jorde Project (from Maldives)
- 27. Tracified
- 28. uPay
- 29. xiges.io

Through feedback received from the startups that showcased, in total, all 29 startups have made contacts with close to 175+ potential clients interested in their products and 90+ potential partnerships.

## **INCLUSION PAVILION** AT DISRUPT ASIA 2018

The Inclusion Pavilion at Disrupt Asia Innovation Festivl was where organizations involved in building assistive and accessibility technology showcased their products. Many such innovations from universities, disability advocacy organizations and startups were shocased in this pavilion. They are:

- The Center for Biomedical Innovation (University of Moratuwa)
- University of Colombo School of Computing
- Enable Lanka Foundation
- BIndNavi

0

- Ahanna Foundation
- LIRNEasia

The pavilion was organized with the support of LIRNEasia, the Inclusion Partner of Disrupt Asia who also brought down resource persons on assistive technology from India and student innovators on this domain from Nepal.



## **CREATIVE PAVILION** AT DISRUPT ASIA 2018

The Creative Pavilion at Disrupt Asia 2018 was organized together with Gamer.Ik who were the Creative Partner of Disrupt Asia 2018. In this pavilion, startups engaged in building games in Sri Lanka exhibited together with companies that are involved in high technology 3D animation work in Sri Lanka.

The startups that exhibited are:

MotionMiracles

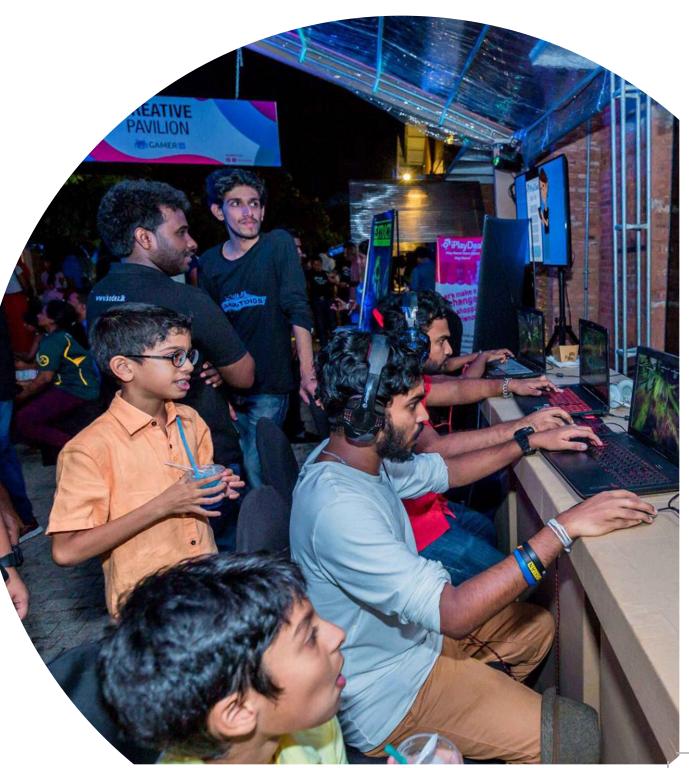
iPlayDeal

0

.

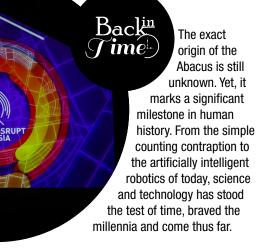
- Kodex
- RAMStudios
- RFactory





# DIGITAL INSTALLATIONS AT DISRUPT ASIA 2018

To showcase how arts, music and technology merges to bring out creative elements. Several such installations were setup at Disrupt Asia.



Today, we take you on a journey back in a time machine albeit a visual one. Science is yet to discover how to travel back in time, but we instead take you back to where it all began. Whether you believe in creation, the big bang theory and evolution does not matter. It is all here...

3D projection Mapping will take you through some of the most significant occurrences of human history. Every discovery, every scientific breakthrough that has shaped the world is put together in to a 5-minute video that comes alive every 55th minute. Witness the world in a matter of minutes. A CONTRACT OF CONTRACT.

Every childhood is made up of enchantment. From the stories of fairies that have been passed on down the ages, to the teenage dreams that are full of wonder, magic is what we grow up on. We are told to never lose our child-like wonder, and here among the forest of light how can you?

A forest at night is a wondrous thing. As your eyes get used to the darkness, shapes appear that are unseen to the naked eye. Just like the tiny fireflies that dance among the forest creating patterns of its own, the enchanted forest comes alive with laser illusions and light beams. As you walk through the forest, hear the magical sounds, and catch the sudden movement of a creature in the dark. In the sky above us, we see clouds. When they are grey, they bring us rain. When they are white they give us shelter and it is through them clouds that light reaches us to make our day bright and sunny. Clouds have an impact on our lives. On what we do when and how we do what. Likewise, clouds change in size, design and colour while moving with the wind just like how our lives change, moods change, situations change as we go on in life.

Experience the confrontation of clouds and life showcasing the ever changing patterns of human life in this world.

Installation by: University of the Visual & Performing Arts, Faculty of Visual Arts

Finding your way through the winding paths of an enchanted forest will leave you searching for direction. The Luna installation serves just that purpose. In ancient times, it was used to reflect the light from the moon to illuminate the pathways around it.

Today, Luna is a reflection tower that will introduce the innovativeness of our disruptors to the world. Disrupt Asia has since its inception being changing the start-up eco-system in Sri Lanka and the region, and the Reflection patterns on the luna tower you see will create a story. It will also be the focal point of the innovation festival, and the centerpiece of the exhibition.

A Luna Tower serves the same purpose as a lighthouse, guiding those around it with a beacon of light. Similarly, Disrupt Asia will guide all start-ups towards the innovative world of tomorrow.

Every journey has its own story to tell, with milestones, victories, disruptions and more. We tell our story, through a journey of light. Here at the Miles of Light installation it is all about the beginning of the start-up eco-system and where its journey so far.

Walk through an illuminated pathway, with light tube that create triangular frames depicting the milestones of Disrupt Asia. From the birth of the idea to what you see today, each triangular column tells a story of trials and tribulations. It speaks volumes of how the start-up eco-system in Sri Lanka was birthed, nurtured and raised to the giant it is today.

Someone once said that every journey begins with a single step, and this illumination tells a story of a journey that is shaping the lives of thousands of young Sri Lankans. Witness the making of a digital nation.

The SPACE

light and through that light was all things created. Light gives life and in a myriad of patterns it weaves the world. From the colours of a rainbow, to the shades of the sea, it is the light that makes you see what you see.

In the beginning there was

Radiance captures the many patterns, moods and moments of that life-giving light. Feel yourself walking Pass a life-size Light Cube and control the patterns at the touch of your fingertips. The patterns created may seem familiar as they remind you of the great outdoors. After all it is nature that inspires science. The world we live in is a space of vertigo now more than it ever was. Technology is reaching its goals in a speed surpassing a bullet train.

The technological development; is it focused correctly? That is our concern today. Pure theories as well as disputing ideas are critically beyond our reach. Technology is governing us by implying that all phenomena are perfect and everything is ok. Thus being fooled we are combating with the theories and ideas existing away from our world and it leads us in to a vertigo. That vertigo is just a black hole and it does not have an end. We All Live in this hole and it does not have an end.

Installation by: Nisal B Guruge collaboration with Nuwan Sanuranka, Janaka Pradeep

In the beginning there was light and through that light was all things created. Light gives life and in a myriad of patterns it weaves the world. From the colours of a rainbow, to the shades of the sea, it is the light that makes you see what you see.

Radiance captures the many patterns, moods and moments of that life-giving light. Feel yourself walking Pass a life-size Light Cube and control the patterns at the touch of your fingertips. The patterns created may seem familiar as they remind you of the great outdoors. After all it is nature that inspires science.



Sri Lanka's first all-electric supercar, using advanced software and hardware solutions to optimize performance and drive-train technology.

A fully scalable system, that can be customised to develop and manufacture modular based components and solutions, for the automotive industry and related fields.



# SPEAKERS OF DISRUPT ASIA 2018







PRADEEPA JEEVA CEO - Jeeva Productions Inc & Head of Content Strategy at Snake Nation Compliance, LOLC Group, Co-Founder - iPay.lk





**RAVEEN WIJAYATILAKE** Founder and CEO of GamerLK





**DR HARSHA ALLES** 

Chairman - Gateway Group

JANEETH RODRIGO General Manager at Digital -TV Derana & IdeaHell

**NIRJHOR RAHMAN** Country Director at ygap Bangladesh



**MUKUNDHAN SRINIVASAN** 



**ARUNA PERERA** 



YUDHANJAYA WIJERATNE Researcher at LIRNEasia

**MOHIT PANDE** 

Senior Vice President

at Linear Squared (Pvt) Ltd



AJITH FERNANDO Managing Director & CEO at CAL



**ASHIQUE ALI** Director at Talliance



**SAVANTHA DE SARAM** Senior Partner at

MAHELA LIYANAGE Attorney-at-Law

**JENELL SAN ANTONIO** Marketing Manager for Philippines and Sri Lanka - Payoneer

**SANKHA MUTHU** 

PORUTHOTAGE

CEO / Co-founder

at Linear Squared

**DANUSHKI PERERA** Head of iMarketing at Pyxle International



**KUSH SAGAR** 



**RAY NEWAL** Managing Director, Techstars India



**SAJINI JAYAWARDENA** Innovation Consultant Manager



Co-Founder & CEO of Takas.lk





LAHIRU PATHMALAL HASITH YAGGAHAVITA Chief Disruptive Officer -StartupXFoundary



**ROMESH RANAWANA** Managing Director at SimCentric Technologies





Manager-Innovation and Global Reach at ESOFT Metro Campus





YASMINE KHATER Founding Partner of Vision Strategy Storytelling Pte Ltd





NICK MARINO JR Director of Social Change TangoTab

SUJIT CHRISTY

Governance, Risk, Compliance & Cybersecurity Professional

ALEX SOSKIN Interim Director of RSA Global at The RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce)

**KEITH WALLACE** Chairman and Managing Partner at DeInvesteerdersClub



ANKUR MEHTA Sr. Analyst - Corporate nnovation at T-Hub Hyderabad



JEHAN WIJESINGHE Co-Founder & CEO -IgniterSpace



WELLINGTON PERERA **Cloud Solution Architect** at Microsoft



FADHIL BAKEER MARKAR Partnerships, Innovation and Youth Focal Point at UNDP Sri Lanka



INDIKA DE ZOYSA Director, Projects

at ICTA



MANGALA Chief Disrupter at GIZ SME Sector Development Program KARUNARATNE Founder & CEO



UDARA DHARMASENA Head of Paid Media & Assistant Manager, Neo@Ogilvy



CALVIN HINDLE Senior Business Analyst : Customer Experience & Cognitive Solutions at MillenniumIT

JIFFRY ZULFER Founder & CEO - PickMe (Digital Mobility Solutions Lanka (PVT) Ltd)



**CHAMIRA PRASAD** Managing Director -Arimac Lanka (Pvt) PLC



**HEMINDA JAYAWEERA** Senior Fellow in Innovation and Entrepreneurship at University of Moratuwa





PRASHANTHAN BALAKRISHNAN Country Marketing Consultant, Sri Lanka - Google



SHARANYAN SHARMA KANISHKA WEERAMUNDA Entrepreneur in Residence at Square Hub Founder / Chairman - Extreme SEO Internet Solutions



SUGIBUN SATHIAMOORTHY Managing Director / Head of Brands - Magic Mango



**ANUSHKA WIJESINHA** Advisor - Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade (MoDSIT),

Government of Sri Lanka



**HESHAN FERNANDO** Co-Founder & CEO - oDoc



NANAYAKKARA

Social Media Strategy

Consultant & Trainer

ACHALA

Co-Founder at Good Market

**DR. BUDDHIMA** SUBASINGHE Head of Computer Science, National Institute of Business Management (NIBM)



SAMARADIWAKARA

SACHINDRA

SAMARARATNE

Program Manager - ICTA

#### **TESTIMONIALS OF DISRUPT ASIA** 2018

Disrupt Asia provides an opportunity and the much needed exposure to budding startups. Various speakers with different experiences/backgrounds can create synergies that will help innovators to push the boundaries of their respective fields with confidence. Looking forward to an improved experience next year.

> Sanjaya Elvitigala Elearning.lk

Great Initiative. Quality of the event was great. One of the properly organised tech festival in Sri Lanka. Highly recommended for Tech Startups.

> Miller SenzAgro (Pvt) Ltd

I have been participating for Disrupt Asia since 2016 and I would say the 2018 was indeed the Best out of them with respect to the discussions, exposure and the knowledge gained. Super excited for the Disrupt Asia 2019 event.

Adhisha Gammanpila

Great initiative to bring all participants in the local innovation eco-system together. Had a good mix of startups exhibiting. Good balance in the sessions between application and inspiration.

> Mudith Uswatta Calcey Technologies

Disrupt Asia 2018 was a great opportunity as a fresh new startup to see how things work in this sphere. We were lucky to have been there and the workshops and conference, especially those on failure were a real motivational element to our journey. We look forward to more events of this nature in Sri Lanka as this will really motivate the entrepreneurial spirit within us all.

#### 99

Roshith Ranasinghe GIFTUP Disrupt Asia is amazing and one and only event is Sri Lanka focusing on Tech Startups . I learnt a lot of lessons and gained lots of knowledge from it!

> Dileepa Rajapaksha Jolyper

Congratulations Disrupt Asia for completing yet another successful event. It was a fantastic opportunity for start-ups to showcase their product, speak to potential customers and explore business opportunities. Hope to see more and more startup next year!

> Gayantha de Zoysa Strive





@readmelk

Another grand #DisruptAsia came to a close, in what was the biggest gathering of the startup ecosystem in Sri Lanka. Kudos to the @disruptasia organizing team!

Also, do stay tuned for our post event coverage 😉



gudppl, ICTA Sri Lanka and TRACE

8:48am · 12 Aug 2018 · Twitter for Android



It was a great privilege for me share my #Entrepreneurship journey with group of like minded future #Entrepreneurs @disruptasia



7:53am · 13 Aug 2018 · Twitter for Android ⊚Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka



We are attending @disruptasia and representing Maldives in the Premier Startup Conference and Innovation Festival organized by the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka since 2016 promoting entrepreneurship, policy, innovation and startups.



4:44pm · 11 Aug 2018 · Twitter for Android



Anush Wijesinha

Fascinating stuff happening in the confluence of #AI and ESports, and biz models emerging from it, explains @rav33n of @GamerLK at @disruptasia



6:31pm · 11 Aug 2018 · Twitter for iPhone



Ray Newal

Enjoyed the opportunity to meet SriLanka and the amazing startup scene over there @disruptasia @readmelk @JohnKeellsX keep up the great work!

ReadMe @readmelk So we had a chat with @rnewal from @techstars for the @disruptasia edition of the #ReaderPod series youtu.be/nrkYKDaakpM?a



10:11pm · 16 Aug 2018 · Twitter for iPad





IC<sup>2</sup> Institute @IC2Institute

Here's IC<sup>2</sup>'s Glenn Robinson delivering the keynote at @disruptasia 2018. Thanks for the opportunity to share lessons learned from our @xlr8ap India program with experts from other Asian countries. Read more:

ic2.utexas.edu/glenn-robinson...



9:38pm · 16 Aug 2018 · Twitter Web Client



Was great to experience another edition of @disruptasia organised by Sachindra, @ahamednishadh & team at @icta\_srilanka! Lots of engaging elements to this year's event, great festival atmosphere, insightful conversations about on #startups #innovation #entrepreneurship #policy



9:46pm · 11 Aug 2018 · Twitter for iPhone



This year we have @payermv @onboardmv and the winner of @swmaldives - Women Edition 2018 taking part in @disruptasia.



9:05pm · 11 Aug 2018 · Twitter for Android



Going to @disruptasia at Trace. Tons of speakers to look forward today. <u>disruptasia.today</u>

1:52pm · 11 Aug 2018 · Twitter for Android



Calcey Technologies @calcey

@disruptasia took over @Trace\_LK last Saturday. @calcey hosted the speakers' lounge & @mangkaru featured as a panelist in several sessions and as a judge in the final startup battle. Kudos to the organizers for putting together one of the most exciting events we've been part of!





5:59pm · 15 Aug 2018 · Twitter Web Client







































## DISRUPT ASIA 2017 HIGHLIGHTS



DISRUPT ASIA 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



https://2018.disruptasia.today





# DISRUPT

**#DISRUPT**ASIA **() ()** @disruptasia www.disruptasia.today