SERVICE LEARNING BROUGHT TO SRI LANKA

Associate Professor Dr. Vishalache Balakrishnan

It was indeed an amazing experience, visiting Sri Lanka, University of Colombo and specifically the Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA). My original trip which was supposed to take place originally in June 2019 had to be postponed due to some unrest issues in Sri Lanka.

It was an impactful 16 days’ trip where I provided several workshops on Service Learning to teachers, principals, university lecturers and support staff, undergraduates, masters students and doctoral students.

I also got invited to give a guest lecture to 70 over Master of Science in Service Management. They were so amazing, organising a traditional Sri Lankan tea before the start of lecture and sharing all the traditional Sri Lanka ceremony which I greatly appreciate. I learnt much from them as they were adult students from all over Sri Lanka. It was one of my most productive time during my AUA visit.

My hosting institute was so creative by organising workshops for me to conduct outside the University of Colombo. I gave a Service Learning workshop to 200 principals who had come for their post graduate professional diploma at the National Institute of Education which was located in Maharagam, at the outskirts of Colombo.

My entire visit has achieved its objectives by more than 100% and I wish to personally thank Professor JASK Jayakody and his team of wonderful staff who worked so hard to make my stay at Colombo, Sri Lanka a memorable and productive one for both parties.