

# Bionews

Updates and News from the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia initiative – February 2016

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Have you had a look at our new website?

[www.lankabiogas.com](http://www.lankabiogas.com)

## ***Bionews from around the World***

- Biogas can turn South Africa's excess waste into energy

<http://it-online.co.za/2016/02/05/biogas-can-turn-sas-excess-waste-into-energy/>

- Make your own biogas digester

<http://www.treehugger.com/renewable-energy/make-your-own-diy-biogas-digester.html>

- Report: Biomass, biogas, waste-to-energy added 224 MW last year

<http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/12881/report-biomass-biogas-waste-to-energy-added-224-mw-last-year>

- The dairy farmer who banks on alternative power sources

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/metropolis/society/the-dairy-farmer-who-banks-on-alternative-power-sources/article8219312.ece>

## **Awareness workshop in for cattle farmers**

The Project with the guidance of our Eastern Province technical officer, Anula conducted an awareness workshop for cattle farmers with the collaboration of World Vision in Valacanaï. A total of 53 small-scale cattle farmers and representatives from the livestock development office participated at this workshop.



Since January we started construction in two domestic units in Galle and Meegoda.



The EU SWITCH-Asia initiative on "Up-scaling Biogas Technology for Sustainable Development and Mitigating Climate Change in Sri Lanka" is a joint partnership between People in Need, Cz and local partner Janathakshan funded. The project is focused on up-scaling biogas technologies for sustainable development, responsible tourism, economic growth contributing to poverty reduction and climate change mitigation in Sri Lanka.

### Home Grown, Local Solutions

North Western Provincial Council Director of Small Industries Aloka Bandara and his wife have always been keen on promoting local technologies. Hence, building their new house in the heart of Kurunegala became an ideal opportunity for them to invest in green and local technology that they truly believed in.

Having attended an exhibition organised by the EU-funded SWITCH Asia initiative on “Up-scaling Biogas Technology for Sustainable Development and Mitigating Climate Change in Sri Lanka” in collaboration with Janathakshan, the couple was introduced to biogas technology.



This led the duo into constructing a Chinese type 9m3 biogas unit in their household in September 2015. The unit is connected to three toilets and is also fed with kitchen waste. Since then, the lady of the house claims to have received continuous gas every day and is extremely pleased with the process.

The slurry is to be used in the rooftop home garden they plan to build once the house has completed construction.

The Director and his wife are not only keen on living a greener, healthier and environmentally sustainable lifestyle but are also very pleased to have in their household their own product that is also locally manufactured.



#### European Union

The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 27 European countries. In 1957, the signature of the Treaties of Rome marked the will of the six founding countries to create a common economic space. Since then, first the Community and then the European Union has continued to enlarge and welcome new countries as members. The Union has developed into a huge single market with the euro as its common currency. What began as a purely economic union has evolved into an organisation spanning all areas, from development aid to environmental policy. Thanks to the abolition of border controls between EU countries, it is now possible for people to travel freely within most of the EU. It has also become much easier to live and work in another EU country.

#### SWITCH-Asia

The European Union (EU) has made the issue of “sustainable consumption and production” (SCP) a priority in its latest regional cooperation strategy (2007-2013) and in 2008 the European Commission launched the SWITCH-Asia programme to help interested consumers, businesses and supporting associations switch to a more sustainable paradigm.

#### People in Need

People in Need is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation based on the ideas of humanism, freedom, equality and solidarity. The organisation considers human dignity and freedom to be the basic values and believes that people anywhere in the world should have a right to make decisions about their lives and to share the rights expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

#### Janathakshan

Janathakshan (GTE) Limited is a not for profit company established in 2011 to promote sustainable and green solutions in development to Sri Lanka and beyond. Janathakshan; meaning “people’s technology” or “technology for people” roots itself in the work of Practical Action, a technology based INGO operated in Sri Lanka for over two decades and envisages the same vision and values of Practical Action founder E. F. Schumacher’s philosophy. The existence of Janathakshan (GTE) Limited ensures the sustainability of knowledge based networks and expert knowledge to serve future practitioners, development agencies, researchers, students, academics and decisions makers.

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