

MANDALA MORNINGS | TABLE 1 | NOTES

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How can we get Sri Lanka recognized for innovation?

- Despite the fact that we generate unique ideas and have the talent, we struggle to compete with global innovator companies like Google and Tesla to take on the global market?
- We need an environment that fosters innovation but also understands how to sell it;
- We [Sri Lanka] lack the ability to package [and brand] things well.
- Tech communities that are innovating lack **aesthetic/design strength**~ *those designing lack the utility and tech background to back their design.*
- How do we change this current situation? How are we going to set up about designing new products?
 - everytime is like the time before - *How can we learn from the past?*
 - We need to look to our ancient packaging practices - sustainable and scalable!
- How do we collaborate on this? What are the guidelines we are going to follow?
 - We need to redefine the general conception of 'art'; how do we bring in art to influence tech?
 - We need to make art language and tech the tool.
 - We need to better understand the intersection of utility and aesthetic, what's in a trend, what's in a brand and speak the language of 'cool'.
 - *How do get universities and programs to understand this and entice more Sri Lankan talent back, as well as retain the talent we have?*

How do we collaborate to redesign our products and brands to become recognized as a hub for cool innovations.

We have a \$10B debt with no formula for solution - human labor only brings in \$4-5B; is that what we want to be recognized for? How will we find the remaining 50%?

Robotics makes things cheaper- when will we upgrade, and adapt? Especially in industries we are recognized for: i.e apparel industry etc?

"Everything will soon be autonomous"

- The human mind won't be required for a lot of the decisions we make today
- What will we do with our time when our cars are being driven and machines being run; what creative decisions will we make?
- What is the future of workspaces?
- Will we redefine connectivity? Will we set parameters? What will they be?
- How do we bridge the digital divide- how are we going to set about facilitating digital inclusion and make options visible to those with less opportunity- Would this help brain gain?

How consumer driven is the future going to be? How conscious will we be?

- Millennials have a different approach to things, including nationalism- how do we harness our sense of a global community to ensure the positive change we seek?
- Disillusioned by capitalism - rise of the conscious consumer
 - What would retail and packaging look like as the consumer becomes more concerned and well informed about the repercussions of the current situation?
 - What's the tipping point?
 - What can we do to steer the direction?

Humans are like a Phoenix, we have the ability to rise from the ashes and reinvent. What is the time frame for us? What are we preparing for? Bleak world war or sustainable future?

We have a time lag for acting on Ideas ; how do we propel ourselves into a post fossil fuel era; how do we utilize new elements? How do we mobilized non-aligned characters? Why are we still utilizing obsolete technologies?

How do we become self sufficient and Grow our own everything?

- Our own clean air and Food?
- We are products of the environment, how do we bring about that mentality?
- *We can now grow 4 acres of farm in a repurposed container with [Freight Farms](#).*

Why is Clean air and water not listed as a human right?

- Air quality is a right; we should all be able to know the quality of the air we breathe.
- How do we make something like [Clean Space](#) accessible to all?
- How do we unify data and make it accessible?

How do we attach this data to vitals so that people re-prioritize their values?

What Information/ data do we want for our lives?

WE NEED A NEW BASELINE

- How do we want to quantify and value things: happiness index+tech
- How do we calculate the worth of a citizen life comprehensively?
- Not just net worth but an all encompassing valuing system similar to Happiness Index
- How do we monitor this index and provide support?
- Our valuations are not comprehensive: We need a shift from financial to economic; new valuation system
- Eg: [The Economic value of Elephants](#)
- Showing people what is correlated and how- the real cost of things
- Eg: Real cost of plastic built into price.
- We need to see the net effects of activities- show citizens how to calculate and attach values to vitals.
- Who bears the cost currently? Who is responsible? How do we shift this?
- If tech is a tool to leave issues behind, and art enables information distribution and accessibility then how will we use these 2 elements to reevaluate the issue.

How do we make those who don't have access to the right information in all demographics relate to the problem?

How do we ensure constitutional reform FOR THE PEOPLE. What is the opportunity for tech and arts?

Time is now or we miss the window! - [Constitutional Referendum in Jan 2017](#)

- What are we going to do with the new constitution? How can tech play a role?
- We can get the message out but how do we mobilize? Right to information- how do we act?
- What will we do when we get to the referendum? Role of private companies? How do we get the message to the steering committee?

- Info on referendum: basics - constitutionnet.org & [Manthri](#)

Sustainable Cities

- Bottle deposits as a part of [ZeroWaste Europe](#)
- Change plastic bag usage - fruits and veggies given in multiple plastic bags, limiting the usage of bags
 - Making paper bags cost effective for supermarkets
 - Simple device to generate weights and codes and additional costs of plastic bags
- [Planning for a Sustainable Singapore](#)
- Geo info systems: outsourcing data to public; Overlay raw data on a map
- National data centre initiative- how do we Harvest our own data?
- Gameifying planting trees
- App detecting trash to advice on simplest disposal - Jaffna University Group
- How do we design an initiative that is appealing for corporate participation?
- Government of New South Wales, Australia has a [one stop citizen porthole for government services.](#)
- NEW OPEN DATA INITIATIVE LAUNCHED-how do we utilize it?
- **Air Quality** : What's the available data, using TI's and blue tooth radius; cell towers
- [Building Better Cities](#) - TED Radio Hour
- [Happy Maps](#) - To change the corporate rethoric of the smart cities movement, there is the need to study how people psychologically perceive the urban environment, and to capture that in a quantitative fashion.
- [Walkability of Streets](#)