



# AN ISLAND RISING

Main Deck 2025



## Sri Lanka's Premier Startup Conference and Innovation Festival

Disrupt Asia is a platform to bring together Sri Lanka's next generation of builders, movers, and shakers who are collectively crafting tomorrow's world.

Since its inception in 2016, each edition of Disrupt Asia has gone on to showcase the best of Sri Lanka in tech and innovation, with participation swelling with each subsequent edition.

In 2025, Disrupt Asia aims to go bigger and bolder, with appearances from big names in the region and an event roster curated for maximum exposure for partners and participants alike.

# Sri Lanka's Premier Startup Conference and Innovation Festival

This year, the festival aims to achieve three key goals.



## Launch a USD 50 Million Fund of Funds

To support deserving local entrepreneurs and mission-driven startups to succeed



## Legal and Policy Advocacy

To create a channel and platform through which the private sector can participate in investment, policy reform, and digital initiatives at a national level



## Launch of a Virtual SEZ

To create a a favourable, cost-effective, and innovation-friendly environment for global tech firms and startups so they may consider setting up in Sri Lanka

**2019**

Keynote by Casey Lau and  
Amarit Charoenphan  
1000+ attendees from  
around the world



**2018**

Keynote by Nick Marino and  
Glenn Robinson  
750+ attendees from 11 countries



**2017**

Keynote by Cheryl Edison  
and Kevin Petrovic  
400+ attendees



**2016**

Keynote by Brian Wong  
and JF Gauthier  
300+ attendees



# A Roster of Past Speakers and Panelists Spanning the Breadth of the World



**Brian Wong** is the Founding Partner at BW Growth Ventures/Ascii.vc and co-founder of Kiip, a mobile ad platform backed by over \$40 million from investors.



**JF Gauthier** is a Silicon Valley serial entrepreneur, best known as the Founder and CEO of Startup Genome and a leading voice in innovation ecosystem development.



**Cheryl Edison** is a Venture Partner at Venturewave Capital, specialising in scaling businesses, international market entry, and sustainable growth strategies.



**Kevin Petrovic** is the co-founder of FlightCar, a peer to peer car sharing company built for airport travellers. FlightCar is now disrupting the car rental market in 12 cities and counting.



**Nick Marino Jr.** is a leader in corporate social responsibility and nonprofit innovation. Co-founded Revolving Mind Media and supports ventures promoting social impact.



**Glenn Robinson** is a senior executive with experience across industry and startups in South Asia and is a published author and speaker on innovation, entrepreneurship and wealth-creation.



**Casey Lau** is one of Hong Kong's tech start-up pioneers. Casey speaks regularly around Asia on Hong Kong's startup scene at conferences, and teaches a class for new entrepreneurs at General Assembly.



**Amarit Charoenphan** is the VP of Growth, Southeast Asia for INNOVERA, Managing Partner of Aim Ventures, and a Partner of Unfold Ventures, Thailand's most active angel investor network.



**Alejandro Alvarez** has over two decades of experience driving private-sector-led growth. He is currently the Country Manager for Sri Lanka and Maldives at the International Finance Corporation.



**Craig Dixon** is a Founding General Partner of Accelerating Asia Ventures, an early stage Venture Capital + Accelerator investing in and supporting early stage technology companies.



**Priyan Fernando** brings over 30 years of leadership experience across global firms such as American Express, Boston Consulting Group, and Ernst & Young. Currently the Chairman of Brandix Lanka.



**Mohan Belani** is the Co-founder and CEO of e27, a startup and tech ecosystem platform focused on helping startup founders build and grow their companies.

# A Roster of Past Speakers and Panelists Spanning the Breadth of the World (cont.)



**Alok Lall** is the Chief Operating Officer at Microsoft for the Indian and South Asian region, and bring with him nearly 30 years of experience in tech.



**David Mann** is Chief Economist - Asia and MEA for Mastercard, with a strong markets background working in London, New York, Hong Kong and Singapore.



**Sanjay Jain** is deeply involved in India's digitization journey and has been a leading figure in the rollout of Aadhar, UPI, and the India Stack. Prior to that, he was an EIR at Khosla Labs and a PM at Google.



**James Tan** is Managing Partner at Quest Ventures, a top venture capital fund in Asia. Previously, he was co-founder and COO of 55tuan, a NASDAQ listed e-commerce group.



**Lakmini Wijesundera** is the Founder and CEO of BoardPac and IronOne Technologies, and has over 18 years of experience in technology management and global distribution.



**Mark Moffat** is the Chief Executive Officer of IFS, a global leader in enterprise cloud and Industrial AI software. Before IFS, he held senior leadership roles at PwC.



**Megha Jain** is an early stage impact focused investor keen to engage with entrepreneurs in the field of technology, consumer, agriculture, healthcare and financial services.



**Rajan Anandan** is the Managing Director at PeakXV Partners and Surge, with a notable career spanning leadership roles at Google, Microsoft, Dell, and McKinsey & Company.



**Ravi Narayan** is a pioneer in the Venture Catalyst/Startup Accelerator space. He has worked for the last decade in building institutions for supporting entrepreneurship globally.



**Romesh Ranawana** is the Group Chief Analytics and AI Officer at Dialog Axiata. Dr. Ranawana has experience as an academic, entrepreneur, and business leader.



**Sachindra Samararatne** is the Associate Chief Digital Economy Officer of ICTA. He is tasked with driving the Industry, Startup & Innovation SBUs under the Digital Economy Pillar of ICTA.



**Siddhartha Raja** is a World Bank Senior Specialist for Technology & Jobs. He leads the World Bank's thinking on how technology is reshaping the world of work.

# Four Days of Exciting Events and Networking

17 September  
2025

## Venture Engine

Live pitches and investment from top local angels and regional VCs.



18 September  
2025

## Main Conference

An entire day of illuminating discussions and power-packed events.



19 September  
2025

## Innovation Fest

A showcase of Sri Lanka's best innovations. Open to the general public.



20 September  
2025

## Networking

A closed-door, sundown networking session at a scenic, beachfront location.





## Venture Engine

Angel funding platform for entrepreneurship and social impact

Venture Engine is Sri Lanka's pioneering startup acceleration program, founded by BOV Capital and the Indian Angel Network, and partnered by the Lankan Angel Network (LAN). Since its launch in 2012, it has become the country's most successful platform for funding innovative and scalable startups that address genuine pain points. Over 10 editions, Venture Engine has vetted more than a thousand startups and attracted over Rs. 2 billion in funding for more than 35 promising businesses. Key sponsors include the Ford Foundation and Indian venture capital firm Aavishkaar, alongside other prominent partners in Sri Lanka's startup ecosystem.



## Disrupt Asia Main Conference

*A premier technology conference on par with the region's flagship events*

Since 2016, Disrupt Asia has stood as Sri Lanka's iconic flagship event celebrating entrepreneurship and the startup ecosystem. With each passing year, the conference has grown in stature and influence, attracting innovation luminaries, visionary entrepreneurs, business leaders, and global companies to the sunny shores of Sri Lanka. The 2025 edition promises to be bigger and better than ever, proudly powered by title sponsor Mastercard.



## Innovation Fest

*A showcase of the best innovations from all four corners of Sri Lanka*

The innovation festival taking place as part of Disrupt Asia 2025 will be a showcase for emerging innovations which are the brainchild of Sri Lanka's next generation. The festival is open to the public, with previous editions attracting a wide cross section of society from school children to SME owners investing for growth, and corporate executives on the hunt for the next big thing to help propel their organizations forward.



## Networking Event

*A fitting finale to a celebration of Sri Lanka's untapped potential*

As the four day festival comes to a close, this private networking event is curated to encourage high-value introductions and conversations. Expected to be held at a scenic beachside location in Colombo, this event will also serve as the final point of announcement for significant future initiatives.

# Speaker Highlight



**H.E. Hon. Anura Kumara  
Dissanayake**  
President of Sri Lanka



**Hon. Eranga Weeraratne**  
Deputy Minister of Digital Economy



**Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya**  
Chief Advisor to the President  
on Digital Economy



**Rajan Anandan**  
Managing Director  
Peak XV & Surge



**Sanjiva Weerawarana**  
Founder & CEO, WSO2



**Urmila Chandrasekaram**  
Co-founder & COO MintPay



**Bhanuka Harischandra**  
Founder & CEO, Surge Global



**Jiffry Zulfer**  
Founder & CEO, PickMe

# Hyper Attractive Visibility for Partners

## 4 Days

of energetic events



## 1,000+

tech enthusiasts and entrepreneurs

Regional and international VCs from

 **peak xv**

PATAMAR | CAPITAL

 **seedstars**

 **STRIDERS**

 **Tenity**

 **ACCELERATING ASIA**

 **ORVEL**

 **Quest**  
VENTURES



## 100+

local and global investors

## Key Highlights From 2024

69%

of investees said the event far exceeded expectations in terms of value provided

60%

of investors were impressed by the event's organization and execution

40%

of investors found the event to be insightful and relevant

40%

praised the high quality and engaging content and panels



"As a VC with already two investments in Sri Lanka, this was a fantastic opportunity to strengthen our network with local investors and meet new startups of high caliber. We have invited several startups to apply for our upcoming Accelerator Programs.

I was impressed about the concentration of decision makers both from private and public sector who attended. As a foreign VC, we rely on a strong local network which I managed to strengthen during my trip. Moreover, I was very impressed by the tech talent that there is in Sri Lanka – this left me inspired to visit back more regularly and meet new founders for potential investments."



**Jonas Thuerig**

Managing Partner and VP, APAC - Tenity



**Sachindra Samararatne**

Associate Chief Digital Economy Officer

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