

# Business News

## Pathfinder Foundation and Institute of South Asian Studies of NUS plan joint work program

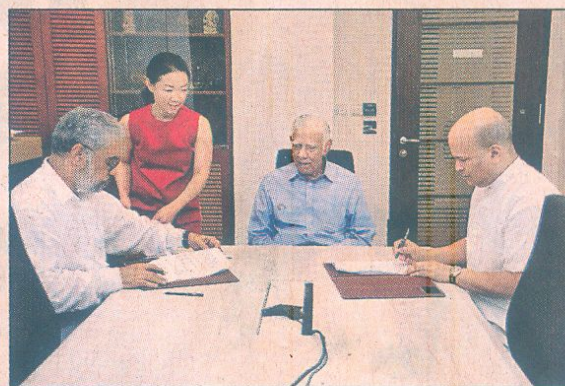
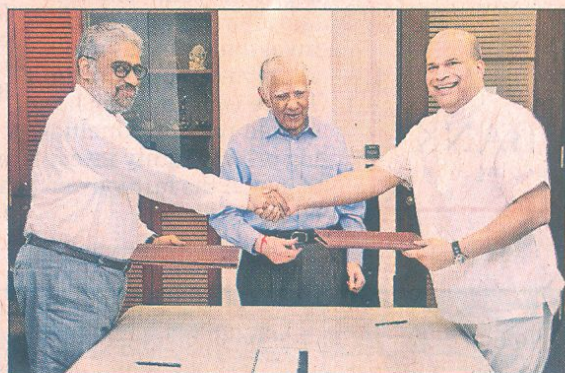
**PATHFINDER** Foundation (PF), a think-tank based in Colombo and the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), an autonomous research institute associated with the National University of Singapore (NUS), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Singapore on 21 November.

The MOU is designed to undertake joint research programs of common interest, hold conferences, symposia and other events on themes of mutual interest and undertake activities of mutual interest jointly. PF Founder Milinda Moragoda and ISAS Director Prof. C. Raja Mohan signed the MOU representing the two institutions respectively, in the presence of ISAS Chairman Ambassador Gopinath Pillai.

The MOU facilitates collaborative research and conferences on areas of common interest such as international relations, maritime security, global and regional governance as well as trade, investment and technology

policy. Singapore is a maritime hub, international financial centre and aviation hub for the Indo-Pacific Region. Singapore has a proven track record in Sri Lanka in developing real estate and industry since Sri Lanka opened its economy in 1977. Furthermore, Singapore has expertise in town planning and development of port related infrastructure.

The Institute of South Asian Studies was established in July 2004 as an autonomous research institute at the National University of Singapore. The establishment of ISAS reflects the increasing economic and political importance of South Asia, and strong historical links between South Asia and Southeast Asia. ISAS is dedicated to carry out research on contemporary South Asia and it seeks to promote understanding of this vital region and to communicate knowledge and insights about



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the region to policy makers, the business community, academia and civil society in Singapore and beyond.

The Pathfinder Foundation is a Colombo based non-profit think-tank, established in 2006, which

has three Centres operating under its wings viz. Centre for Indo-Lanka Initiatives (CILI), China-Sri Lanka Cooperation Studies Centre (CSL CSC) and Centre for Law of the Sea (CLOS). Since its inception, PF has been active in areas such as providing policy recommendation and advocacy in the fields of economic reforms, development of bilateral relations with countries of importance to Sri Lanka and undertaking work on strategic maritime security and maritime governance. PF also has a special focus on Indo-Lanka relations, China-Sri Lanka relations and Indo-China relations. The signing of the MoU, the ISAS and PF hope, will lay the basis for a productive and long-term partnership between the two institutions and contribute to the development of relations between Singapore and Sri Lanka.