Kandy, 25th August 2014- Janathakshan (Gte) Ltd and People In Need, (Czech Republic) conducted the Sustainable Tourism Awareness Workshop on the EU SWITCH-Asia Initiative “Up-scaling Biogas Technology for Sustainable Development and Mitigating Climate Change in Sri Lanka.” Organized in collaboration with the Kandy Hotels Association the workshop was held at the Cinnamon Citadel, Kandy and saw the participation of 30 key tourism entities in the central province. The workshop aimed to build awareness on biogas technology and promote sustainable and responsible tourism based on the principles of environmental integrity, social justice and maximizing local economic benefits to ensure Sri Lanka is a better place for people to live and visit.

Presenting the Kandy Municipal Council Waste Management Policy KMC Engineer N. Dissanayake said “As a developing nation we need to move forward with energy recovery strategies. We will soon advocate compulsory biogas units for apartment complexes in Kandy as it is the answer to sewage and garbage disposal. By July next year we will impose a tax of 7500 LKR from hotels that do not separate and recycle garbage. I urge all of you here to go for biogas units as a solution to managing your waste. We earn a profit of 3 lakhs per month from selling to recycling shops you too can benefit from this. We advocate that you practice the 3R’s; reduce, reuse, recycle.”

The hospitality industry is one of the largest drivers of economic growth; it is also one of the most energy-intensive, accounting for around one-fifth of total industrial CO2 emissions. Biogas improves environmental stewardship by reducing GHG emissions and supporting renewable energy. Biogas provides power with a purpose reducing costs by converting hotel waste into sustainable energy with enduring value. Workshop participants were also given the opportunity to inspect an operational biogas unit at Cinnamon Citadel installed by Janathakshan and working successfully since 2011.

The EU SWITCH-Asia initiative is a joint partnership between People in Need, Cz and local partner Janathakshan funded by the European Union on a budget of EUR 665,000. 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. The project targets tourism Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), households and public authorities in the country while building the technical capacity of manufacture and construction SMEs in biogas technologies. The project also
supports micro-finance institutions to develop financial schemes providing loans for biogas installations to SMEs and households. Furthermore, the training and capacity building component of the initiative assists local construction sector to enhance its technical and entrepreneurial competences regarding manufacturing and installation of biogas systems.

The EU SWITCH-Asia initiative assists tourism SMEs and households benefit from sustainable solid waste management and cost savings through energy and resource efficiency. Tourism SMEs adopting “green” technology will also increase their marketing potential and gain the access to “green finances” provided by micro-finance institutions.

Cinnamon Citadel, Engineer, Mahendra De Silva said "Although Citadel is a city hotel and one of the smaller hotels in the John Keells Hotels chain we are considered the paradigm of responsible, sustainable eco-friendly tourism owing to our waste management policy. At the waste management center we separate all our garbage and we’ve had a biogas unit in operation since 2011. We have reaped tremendous benefits from these sustainable waste management practices and urge other hotels in the province to do the same. We welcome the EU SWITCH Asia initiative because Kandy is a tourist destination and we need to ensure it remains a safe, clean and beautiful place for people to visit and live in. “

END.

For more information please contact –
Meryse Tissera, Communications Manager, +94-11-7885500, meryse@janathakshan.lk
Website - www.janathakshan.lk, www.switch-asia.eu