## **Communiqué**

This is to inform that the partnership agreement entered into in 2012 between the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, UK and the Northshore College of Business and Technology (NCBT), Colombo 15, Sri Lanka to collaborate in the provision of opportunities for Higher Education will effectively expire in 2020, in accordance with the provisions of the said agreement.

The collaboration that recognized the goodwill that existed between the partners, has been very successful all these years and very responsive to the needs of the students, employers and other stakeholders. As per the agreement, there will be no further level 1 recruitment opportunities after January 2018 intake at the NCBT for UWE undergraduate programmes.

At this juncture, UWE wish to reassure that it, along with the NCBT, has committed to allow all UWE students at the NCBT to complete their education and particularly to provide a reasonable opportunity for any trailing students in 2021 to complete their education.

After the end of eight years of successful partnership, each partner has decided to follow new strategic directions. As such, the NCBT states that it would soon announce about its new international partners to deliver internal degree programmes with world-class student experience and, as a non-state higher educational institute, about its important decision to seek approval to offer degrees by virtue of its own degree awarding powers in the near future.

S. Ramanaharan, CEO, NCBT

Tod Burton, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Environment and Technology, UWE

29 January 2018