

# In collaboration with Sri Lanka: (Further) Development of eduStore



**The HIS Higher Education Information GmbH cooperates with Sri Lanka for mutual benefit: the joint (further) development of the open source information system eduStore.**

In their efforts to improve the socio-economic living conditions and the global competitiveness, Sri Lanka focuses on education – with special emphasis on tertiary education. IRQUE is a World Bank assisted project implemented by the Ministry of Higher Education Sri Lanka for “Improving Relevance and Quality of Undergraduate Education”, because currently many Sri Lankan graduates face unemployment. A crucial part of the aimed improvements is to implement a national data warehouse N-HEMS (National Higher Education Management Information System). To reach this goal, with the aid of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), a cooperation between IRQUE Colombo and HIS Hanover has been established.

Basing on timely available and reliable information on the fifteen public universities and 110,000 undergraduates of the country, decision-makers in politics and higher education shall be able to organise tertiary education politics. This requires a multitude of data: e.g. on applicants, enrolled students, and graduates, on staff, on structural, technical, and financial resources, and on the employment market. These basic data shall be provided to all protagonists in the field of tertiary education in Sri Lanka by a national information system. In February 2007, in the context of a consulting project, the national solution of Germany for satisfying the needs on information on higher education politics was presented in front of decision-makers of the Sri Lankan higher education sector: it was the information system of the science departments of the German federal states, ICEland (ICE means Information, Controlling, Decision). Thereupon the government of Sri Lanka decided neither to develop an information system on their own nor to resort to a commercial product, but to cooperate with HIS. The aim is to implement an appropriate information system on open source basis. For this purpose the free information system eduStore is being established which is a further development and bases on the data warehouse SuperX and on experiences with ICE.

Within this partnership for development, a cooperation on an equal footing will be established for the benefit of both parties: the freedom of an open source development secures the autonomy of Sri Lanka, and firstly Colombo will benefit from the German preliminary work; the appointed further software developments by the Sri Lankan team will flow back to the joint source code, and so will be available for all German users. The input of Sri Lanka will double the existing capacity of further software development, and consequently this input will allow to implement further, urgently required features in short- and medium-terms.



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