

## Vesess Inc. Celebrates 9 Years of Excellence on the Web

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA - Sri Lanka based design and technology firm Vesess this week celebrates its 9th anniversary. One of the country's first Internet startups, Vesess has remained self-funded over the past nine years while still producing some of the region's best known web applications.

In 2008, Vesess launched CurdBee, an online invoicing solution for SMEs and freelancers. Today, the service is one of the most popular online invoicing options out there at the moment, and is used by people from over 130 countries on a daily basis. "CurdBee will receive a major overhaul in the second half of 2013," said Laknath Semage, CTO of Vesess. "We're going to focus on adding the next layer of invoicing on top of a new improved platform and bring features such as business networking and social commerce , and CurdBee will be even more useful to freelancers and SMEs."

Though CurdBee has been Vesess' flagship product for half a decade, this doesn't mean that they haven't been working on other projects as well. In fact, Colomboard (www.colomboard.lk), the first of a series of new web applications, will be launched after the CurdBee upgrade goes live in the middle of the year. An online community for people to share ideas and explore products and services in the Sri Lankan market, and in particular, in the city of Colombo, Colomboard aims to simplify the SME business process in Sri Lanka's capital. "Colomboard lets people share interesting stuff with fellow Sri Lankans" said Prabhath Sirisena, Co-Founder and Creative Director at Vesess. "More importantly however, it will allow them to easily sell the things they make, something that's quite difficult to do in Sri Lanka at the moment."

Looking towards their tenth anniversary, Vesess see themselves as a SME that loves to empower other small businesses. "We started small, and know what it's like to feel like the underdog," said Lankitha Wimalarathna, Founder and CEO of Vesess. "We truly believe that small businesses should form the backbone of any economy, and we'd like to help other Sri Lankan SMEs get off the ground in any way that we can."

In a country that is famous for BPO and white label services, Vesess is also unique in that it is a small business that is focused on taking Sri Lankan brands to the world. "We're Sri Lankan, and proud of it," said Wimalarathna. "And while we do know that it takes all kinds of businesses to develop a country, we truly believe that sub continent companies can be more than just cheap labour for firms from North America and Europe." If Vesess' final goal, then, is to create Sri Lankan products that are used by people from all over the world, they are already well on their way towards it. Approximately 75% of CurdBee's current users are from outside Asia, and this number is expected to remain static even as their userbase grows.

Vesess is a lean company, and Wimalaratne explained that this was how they managed to keep their products' pricing so attractive. "We don't waste on overheads," he said. "We do a lot with a small team, and we're always ready to pass our savings on to our customers."

With Colomboard and other projects on the cards, and a major update to CurdBee on the way, the Vesess team has a lot to celebrate about as they head into their tenth year. This doesn't mean, however, that they are ready to rest on their laurels. "We're happy about the distance we've come, but we also know that we have a long way to go," said Wimalarathna. "We have big plans for our tenth year, and we're going to put in the work to seem them come to fruition."

## We empower small businesses.