BOC Youth Loan Fuels Success – Isiri Galagama’s Inspiring Entrepreneurial Journey

Isiri Galagama’s journey is a testament to resilience and ambition.

Dreaming of being an entrepreneur from a young age, she turned her vision into reality by founding Ojil, which exports coir products.

Growing up in a small town in Sri Lanka with limited resources, Isiri faced numerous challenges but remained undeterred. While studying at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, she became serious about her entrepreneurial dreams.

Funding was her first major hurdle, but a friend’s introduction to the Bank of Ceylon’s Youth Loan Scheme changed everything. This program offers financial support and advisory services to young entrepreneurs.

After applying for the loan, Isiri experienced a mix of excitement and anxiety. With BOC’s guidance, she gained confidence and received the financial boost necessary to scale her business.

Today, her coir products are successfully reaching international markets, showcasing the transformative power of her perseverance and the support she received.

The bank provided her with crucial insights into financial management, marketing strategies, and growth planning. “Bank of Ceylon didn’t just hand me the money and leave me to figure things out on my own,” she says gratefully. “They guided me every step of the way, from how to manage my finances wisely to planning for long-term sustainability.”

Despite financial backing, Isiri faced obstacles in learning to run a business. There were moments of doubt, but her determination prevailed. “Starting a business is not easy. It requires commitment and resilience,” she reflects.

Over time, her hard work paid off, and her brand became known for quality and sustainability, attracting a loyal customer base. “Every challenge was an opportunity to grow,” she notes.

Isiri’s story inspires many young Sri Lankans. She emphasizes the importance of having support and resources, acknowledging, “Without Bank of Ceylon’s help, my journey would have been much harder.”

Now, she gives back by conducting workshops for aspiring entrepreneurs. “I want to show young people that success is within reach if you’re willing to work for it,” she says.

Looking ahead, Isiri plans to expand her product line and continue innovating in organic personal care. Her advice to future entrepreneurs: “Pursue your dream

relentlessly. Seek help, find mentors, and never stop learning.”

Isiri’s journey demonstrates that with determination and the right support, young entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka can turn their visions into reality and contribute to the nation’s growth.

“Take the first step, believe in yourself, and remember that success starts with a single decision.”