

WORLD WATER DAY 2011

ACTIVITIES BY SRI LANKA WATER PARTNERSHIP (SLWP)

- 1. Programme on Water, Hygiene and Sanitation for School Community:**
Continuing programme undertaken annually by the Nilwala AWP and University of Ruhuna in the Southern Province. This year it will focus on schools in Kamburupitiya Division of the Matara District. Programme is in collaboration with the District Secretary, NetWwater, Environmental organizations and Medical Officer of Health. This year's special focus is on sanitation in view of SACOSAN to be held in April and based on the survey on sanitation undertaken in Matara Schools in 2010. Programme includes an art and essay competition with prizes for those selected. Programme intends to build awareness of school children on water, sanitation and hygiene, disseminate knowledge on proper sanitary requirements and maintenance and the importance of water quality and hygienic and healthy food consumption. 150 mid grade school children and their teachers will participate. Over 750 children are expected to participate in the art and essay competitions being held.
- 2. Tree Planting in Source Area of Maha Oya (Establishment of a Plant Nursery):**
Maha Oya AWP will continue its source area and river bank conservation programme with a special programme for World Water Day, where a plant nursery of 10,000 plants will be established for its planting programme in 2011. 150 participants who are members of the AWP, Environmental NGO / CBO leaders and members of the Rahalgala / Ambuluwawa / Bo Ella Reserve numbering 200 and at least 150 school children will participate. Preliminary meeting and collection of planting material is planned for 20th March (Sunday) in preparation for World Water Day which falls on Tuesday, 22nd March. Most participants excepting school children are available only on Sundays / holidays.
- 3. School Water and Sanitation Awareness Programme for World Water Day in Colombo District:**
SLWP is organizing a programme for World Water Day to be held on 22nd March or proximate date at Devi Balika Maha Vidyalayaya, one of the premier girls' schools in Colombo. The programme is to cover a girl friendly sanitation system and school water savings, and will be undertaken in collaboration with NetWwater. World Water Day 2011's theme of Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge will be also highlighted under this event.
- 4. Art Exhibition and World Water Day Awareness Activity in Nugawela Balika Vidyalayaya and Nugawela Maha Vidyalayaya:**
The main focus this year will be on school sanitation, and the event will cover art, poster and cartoon competitions. Items selected will be displayed at the SACOSAN exhibition to be held in Colombo from 3rd to the 5th of April 2011. In addition, Nugawela Balika Vidyalayaya will be the site for a field visit by the SACOSAN delegates to Sri Lanka. World Water Day 2011's theme of Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge will be also highlighted under this event.
- 5. Deduru Oya AWP Field Trip for School Children:**
Deduru Oya AWP is arranging a field trip for 50 school children to Kolamuna Oya Bingiriya on 24th March (22nd is zonal inspection day). This was a major river sand mining site that has now been gradually rehabilitated and bank protection / replanting programme was undertaken by the AWP over the last two years and after the recent floods. Based on this programme a regular SLWP Schools Programme (Sisu Jal Hamuwa) will be held in early may on IWRM, school sanitation, availability of drinking water and water quality for 130 children and teachers from 20 schools in Bingiriya.
- 6. World Water Day Message Display in Colombo:**
A thought provoking message in reference to the importance of water management / conservation is scheduled to be displayed on a large size billboard in the premises of ODEL, one of the largest departmental stores in Sri Lanka, situated in a most central location in Colombo. The objective is to try and create more awareness on this subject within the general public.