



N W R A



Lanka Jalani

**Proceedings of the National Consultation on
“A Strategy for the Sri Lanka Water Sector”**

6th November 2003
Sri Lanka Foundation Institute

organised by

**The Interim National Water Resources Authority and
Lanka Jalani.**

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Lanka Jalani in collaboration with the Interim-National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) organised a National Consultation to develop “A Strategy for the Sri Lanka Water Sector” consistent with

- The direction of the Sri Lanka Water and Vision 2025 and the Framework for Action.
- The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) relating to the Water Sector, particularly Goal 7 Target 10& 11, all of which have been adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka.
- The policy principles of the draft National Water Resources Policy and the provisions of the draft National Water Resources Act both of which the i-NWRA was in the process of developing and
- The revised strategy of the GWP, which provides for in Objective 1, to collaborate with national governments to implement IWRM plans under MDG.

All this comes at a time when the draft Water Resources Policy has emerged as a topic of public controversy, largely owing to the lack of an institutional home that will assume ownership and champion the process of having the law adopted by Parliament.

The National Consultation made it clear that bi-partisan or multi-partisan political commitment, unbiased professional advice on the content of the reforms based on scientific principles, current development trends backed by a broad based communication strategy to reach out to the public and incorporate their collective response were the essential elements of a National Water Resource Strategy. The Consultation raised the question as to whether all these elements infact were or would be in place and wondered whether the reform process was dynamic enough to overcome the resistance arising from entrenched interests which desire to retain the status quo.

It was the consensus of the forum that an informed dialogue should continue and that all stakeholders present and many others had a role to play for collective action.

At a time when numerous views were being aired on the form and content of the draft Policy and Law prepared by the Interim Water Resources Authority, there is a need to develop a Strategy for the Water Sector harmonising goals and time lines set out in the Sri Lanka Water Vision 2025 and Framework For Action to integrate the commitments to meeting Millennium Development Goals of the UN and to address issues such as development of IWRM plans articulated in the revised strategy of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) was highlighted:

Notes of discussions and presentations made at the Consultation are provided in a single compilation for perusal by those interested in the future policy and law relating to water and the promotion of the concept of IWRM in Sri Lanka.

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