

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**Energy, Industrial Development, Air Pollution /atmosphere and Climate  
Change in Integrated manner – Sri Lanka**

Energy, Industrial Development, Air Pollution /atmosphere and Climate Change areas are interlinked and inter-changed. This means that a change in one subject has an impact on the other. For instance, consider one of the energy sources such as hydro carbons. The availability of hydro carbon can influence on the fuel supply for industrial development and has a direct influence to the power supply for industrial development. Also it has an impact on air pollution and changes in the climate. All these areas are interlinked. The change in one item influences the magnitude of the other item. The cross cutting items such as poverty reduction, reducing regional disparity, environment, employment etc., are also influenced by these changes.

Sri Lanka has wide experience in implementing integrated rural district development programmes in the past. In these programmes development was addressed in an integrated manner. For instance, problems relating to development in the rural areas are multifaceted. Roads, health, education, power and communication are the major problems faced by them. Addressing these issues in an integrated manner is the appropriate way to solve these issues rather than focusing only one problem. The integrated rural development project approach was designed to address these issues in an integrated manner which has provided positive results. In this system line ministries implemented various development activities and the coordination was done by the Ministry of Plan Implementation.

At present the Ministry of Industrial Development is responsible for industrial development while energy is handled by the Ministry of Power & Energy. Air pollution, climate change and environment related subjects are handled by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The Ministry of Finance and Planning is responsible for the approval of development projects in all these areas.

Similarly, energy, industrial development, air pollution and climate change can be addressed through an integrated manner. A coordinating body at the national level may be established to monitor and evaluate these programmes.