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AN APPRECIATION

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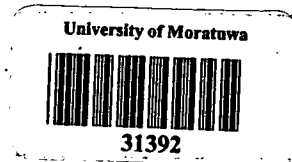
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Postgraduate
Project Report

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NATIONAL WATER PLAN

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PREFACE

This report contains the main findings and conclusions of an action programme based on a research study designed with a view to formulating a National Water Plan. The study was commissioned by the Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, as a project exercise on National Planning for students following the M.Sc. degree course in Town and Country Planning in the academic year 1979/80. The project has confined its interest only to safe drinking water. Thirteen students participated in this project. The group met in plenary session and with the guidance of the Head of the Department of Town and Country Planning and the Consultant attached to the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction identified the range and nature of the problem and the objectives related to the project. This report is in two volumes. Volume one, which is in this document, consists of the Group Report prepared by an Editorial Body, appointed by the group. Volume two consists of the reports produced by the individual students who were assigned specific areas for in-depth study.



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<u>Name</u>	<u>Discipline</u>
P. Arambawela	(Land Surveying)
H.P. Dayaratne	(Geography)
H.V. Dharmasiri	(Estate Management)
W.S.W.J. Fernando (Miss)	(Estate Management)
L.G.S. Gunawardena	(Architecture)
J.M.L. Jayasekera	(Estate Management)
E.K. Masinghe (Mrs)	(Economics & Demography)
N.S.P. Mendis (Miss)	(Estate Management)
A.A.D.D. Saparamadu	(Mathematics & Education)
K. Srijayaramachandra	(Economics)
B. Tai	(Agricultural Engineering)
S. Videnagamachchi	(Public Administration)
N.P. Weerasinghe	(Land Surveying)

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Piyasena Arambawela

Dayananda Saparamadu

Nihal P. Weerasinghe

EDITORIAL BOARD

On behalf of Participants of the Project

July, 1979.



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ABBREVIATIONS USED

IN THE REPORT

Abbreviation

Description

G.C.E.C.

...

Greater Colombo Economic Commission

g.d.p.

...

gallons per day per person

m.a.f.

...

million acre feet

M.D.B.

...

Mahaweli Development Board

N.W.S.D.B.

...

National Water Supply & Drainage Board

U.N.I.C.E.F.

...

United Nations International Childrens

Emergency Fund

W.A.Z.

...

Water Availability Zones

W.H.O.

...

World Health Organisation



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Where-ever the terms "National Water Plan" or "Water Sector" are used, it refers to safe drinking water.

SUMMARY

This study has attempted to provide a STRATEGIC PLAN in the supply of safe drinking water in Sri Lanka. Towards this end it has linked up the various elements that constitute what is termed as "The Drinking Water sector". The study has established most clearly that planning for safe drinking water supply is necessarily a multi disciplinary effort. In this connection, the academic backgrounds of the various participants of this study have been valuable.

The study has been documented in two volumes. Volume ONE comprises the composite Group Report prepared by an Editorial Board appointed by the Group itself. Volume TWO comprises the Technical Annextures representing the specific studies done by individual participants which helped to construct the overall Strategic Plan for this sector.

The Group Report in volume one has discussed the study in three substantial components as follows



- (a) Existing situation
- (b) Magnitude of the problem
- (c) Statement of Strategy and Identification of Programmes. The above has been written up under SIX sections.

The existing situation has revealed the availability of water for tapping to secure drinking water supplies in Sri Lanka. However, there appears to be inadequate information and insufficient knowledge for more effective planning. The analysis of the magnitude of the problem has revealed that, while constraints of various forms do exist, there is also a resource system, that lies awaiting exploitation. A significant constraint, however, is the clear division which appears to presently exist between various elements of the water sector, thereby lacking a mechanism to provide for their integration.

The Strategic Plan in this study has brought about a meaningful relationship between the elements of the Water Sector and made statements which would assist the formulation of a specific National Water Sector Plan with more adequate and reliable information. In particular, this Study suggests that piped water alone could not be the medium of delivery of safe drinking water and that recourse should be made to the provision of sanitary wells and hand-pumps (in water scarce areas).

The recommendations of the Study are contained separately at the end of the Reports.



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