



Round Table Discussion with Water Related Institutes for Establishment of Linkages

Organized by
The National Committee on Hydrology of the
National Science Foundation

Date : 27th August 2010
Venue : Auditorium, NSF

Agenda

- 1.45 pm *Registration*
- 2.00 pm Welcome by Director, NSF
- 2.10 pm Self Introduction by the participants
- 2.20 pm Background and Objectives of the Discussion--Prof Sohan Wijesekara
(Chairman- National Committee on Hydrology)
- 2.40 pm Discussion
- 4.00 pm *Tea*

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Introduction

The National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka is a scientific body which is committed to generating, disseminating and transferring knowledge and, more importantly, to ensure the effective utilization of knowledge, for the greater benefit of the people of Sri Lanka. The Foundation supports research in all fields of fundamental and applied sciences as well as in the social sciences.

The National Committee on Hydrology of the NSF works to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level, to facilitate the efficient conservation, protection, development, planning, management and use of water in all its dimensions on an environmentally sustainable basis. At present the priority areas of the Hydrology Committee include Research related activities, International Linkages, Facilitate addressing National issues and Capacity Building.

Water is one of our most critical resources, but around the world it is under threat. At present, in Sri Lanka there are many institutes engaged in water related activities. These institutes are engaged mainly in water research, integrated water management etc. Networking the people, information, and organizations involved with water, that are vitally concerned with the global sustainability of water resources has become one of the mandates of the National Committee on Hydrology. The National Science Foundation is committed to build up a strong network between Water Related Institutes.

The Committee feels that it is important to obtain views on the current status of the Water Related Institutes in the country as an initial step for establishing strong linkages. It is proposed that such a view could be obtained via a Roundtable discussion with Water Related Institutes. It is envisaged that this roundtable would help develop strategies and establish the initiative and platforms for NSF to make partnerships with Water Related Institutes.

Goals

1. To develop a strong network with Water Related Institutes.
2. To promote the country to an international audience with water related activities

Objectives

1. To get a clear understanding about the objectives of Water Related Institutes
2. To initiate and improve communication with Water Related Institutes
3. To identify priority areas in establishing Linkages.
4. To Identify future issues and priorities for more concerted collaboration

Outputs

Develop strategies and mechanisms for continual collaboration to facilitate following activities;

- I. exchange of scientists, research workers, technologists, specialists and scholars in water related areas.
- II. exchange of scientific and technical information and documentation
- III. organization of scientific and technical seminars, workshops and courses on problems of interest
- IV. facilitate training of young scientists by granting scholarships and fellowships on the basis of exchange
- V. other forms of cooperation (bilateral or multilateral) as may be mutually agreed upon by the contracting Parties.
- VI. Ensure more concerted collaboration

Beneficiaries will include:

- o NSF that link up with the Water Related Institutes for direct expertise and involvement.
- o More interaction between Water Related Institutes.
- o Better understanding of objectives of Water Related Institutes
- o Dissemination of Scientific knowledge.
- o Capacity Development.

Impacts:

- a) Better understanding of mandates of Water Related institutions
- b) Collaborations with scientific institutions abroad arisen out of the roundtable could be of means to set up high tech-laboratories and research facilities in Sri Lanka.
- c) Networks and partnerships established through this roundtable could be continued to utilize emerging opportunities to train local scientists abroad.