

## MAHAWELI DIARY

**1958 – 61**

Studies carried out in some parts of the Mahaweli Project area by the United State Operation Mission (USOM)

**1961 – 62**

Investigations of separate parts of the Mahaweli Project area done by the Canadian Hunting Survey Corporation (CHSC)

**1963**

Government requested the UN Special Fund to explore possibilities for complete utilisation of water resources of the Mahaweli Ganga for purpose of irrigation and hydro-power. The UNDP appointed the FAO to carry out a survey in two stages, the first to prepare a comprehensive study of the river basins included in the project area and a Master Plan, and the second to provide the feasibility studies for the selected first phase of the project development.

**1964**

Proposals for Victoria Project studied by Hunting Technical Services of Canada.

**1964 – 68**

The UNDP/FAO studies carried out with Sri Lankan counterparts covering the land and water resources of the Mahaweli Ganga.

**1969**

A final report of the UNDP/FAO study was issued by the FAO, together with a Master Plan to be implemented over a period of 30 years, supported by specific reports on 17 subjects.

**1970**

The first project in the Master Plan was undertaken by the World Bank and the Sri Lankan Government.

**1970**

The Mahaweli Development Board (MDB) was established under Act No. 14 of 1970.

**1973 – 76**

A Kotmale project feasibility study was carried out by Water and Power Development Consultancy Services, India Ltd. (WAPCOS)

**1975**

Stage II of the Project I commences.

**1976**

Polgolla Bowatenna Complex and Victoria Minipe diversion Project I of Phase II completed.

**1977**

Decision to accelerate implementation of the Mahaweli Development Programme.

**1977**

Victoria geological survey started by the Department of Irrigation and a special geological investigation of the project area carried out by Soil Mechanics Ltd. UK.

**1978**

Economic viability, impact and evaluation studies on Randenigala Project undertaken.

**1978**

Maduru Oya site investigation commenced.

**1979**

Works contracts on Kotmale Project awarded to AB Skanska Cementgjuterite of Sweden.

**1979**

Mahaweli Authority was established under Act No. 23 of 1979.

**1979**

Ministry of Mahaweli joint venture comprising M/s Salzgitter Consultancy GmbH of Germany, Agrar & Hrdrotech Nik GmbH of Germany and Electrowatt Engineering Service of Switzerland with CECB, MDB, CEB, Irrigation Department and Survey Department studies on Randenigala were undertaken and feasibility study completed.

**1979 Dec. 18**

Underground works contract on Kotmale dam signed with AB Skanska.

**1980 March 23**

Construction of Victoria Dam was formally inaugurated.

**1980 March 3**

Contract for construction of Victoria Dam and tunnel was awarded to Balfour Beatty Nuttall of UK.

**1980 April 7**

Main Civil Works contract on Maduru Oya dam awarded to FAFJ of Canada comprising a joint venture of 4 Canadian firms.

**1980 Sep. 3**

The contract for hydro mechanical works on the Maduru Oya project was awarded to Hydraulic Engineering Corporation of China.

**1980 Oct. 20**

Contract for power station buildings was awarded to Constain International Ltd. of UK.

**1981 June 26**

Contract signed for power station plant on Kotmale Project with Skanska.

**1981 Oct. 15**

Substation plant contract on Kotmale Project signed with ASEA AB of Sweden.

**1982 Jan. 16**

The river was diverted through temporary opening in the Victoria Dam.

**1982 Oct. 12**

Impounding of the reservoir on the Maduru Oya project commenced.

**1982 Nov. 17**

Handing over the spillway at Victoria Dam to the gate contractor.

**1983 Feb. 14**

A ceremonial placing of the final corefill on the Maduru Oya Dam to top off work on the dam.

**1984 March 3**

The contractor completed construction work on the Maduru Oya Rock fill dam on schedule and a ceremonial topping up took place to mark the occasion.

**1984 March 30**

Ceremonial diversion of the Mahaweli Ganga for construction of the Randenigala dam.

**1984 April 7**

The impounding of the Victoria Dam initiated the filling of the reservoir.

**1984 Nov. 17**

Kotmale was completed and ceremonially impounded by Sri Lanka's President.

**1984 April 12**

Formal inauguration of Victoria Dam and Hydro electric scheme by the British Prime Minister and Sri Lanka's President.