

**SEMINAR ON TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**  
(For curriculum developers of the NIE and selected master teachers of Grades 6-9)

Date : Friday 18th August, 2000  
Time : 9.30 a.m.- 4.15 p.m.  
Venue : Auditorium of National Science Foundation

**Programme**

**Inauguration**

- 9.30 - 9.35 - Welcome address by Chairman of National Science Foundation  
- *Prof Kapila Dahanayake*
- 9.35 - 9.40 - Address by the Chairman of Working Committee on Science Education and Popularisation  
- *Dr W R Breckenridge*
- 9.40 - 9.50 - Address by the Chairman, National Education Commission  
- *Prof C L V Jayathilleke*
- 9.50 - 10.05 - Address by the Chief Guest  
- *Hon Batty Weerakoon, Minister of Science and Technology*
- 10.05 - 10.10 - Vote of Thanks - *A W J Karunasinghe, Scientific officer, NSF*
- 10.10 - 10.30 - T E A**

**Presentations**

- 10.30- 11.00 - What is Technology, an introduction  
- *Mr L P Jayasinghe, Director Engineering, Haycarb Ltd.*
- 11.00- 11.30 - Integrated Curriculum and Technology Education  
- *Prof Ananda Jayawardene, Dept of Technology Management, University of Moratuwa*
- 11.30- 11.45 - Discussion
- 11.45 - 12.15 - Information Technology  
- *Dr A S Karunananda, Dept of Mathematics, Open University of Sri Lanka*
- 12.15 - 12.30 - Discussion
- 12.30 - 1.30 - L U N C H**
- 1.30 - 2.00 - What is Technology Education  
- *Dr Gamini Kulatunga, Senior Lecturer, Dept of Agriculture & Plantation Engineering, Open University of Sri Lanka*
- 2.00 - 2.15 - Discussion
- 2.15 - 2.45 - Innovation and Technical Change  
- *Mr M Asoka T De Silva, Consultant for CARP and IUCN, Ex. Deputy Director General, NARESA*
- 2.45 - 3.00 - Discussion
- 3.00 - 3.15 - T E A**
- 3.15 - 3.45 - Technology and Social Change  
- *Prof S T Hettige, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo*
- 3.45 - 4.00 - Discussion
- 4.00 - 4.15 - Open Discussion
- 4.15 - Summing Up

## What is Technology

*L.P. Jayasinghe*  
*Director Engineering, Haycarb Ltd.*

Technology is a Buzz word very much in use these days. However, there is the need to identify the true meaning of the word itself and its implications in our lives. In the present day world Technology plays an inexorable part even in the daily lives of all and sundry. Such intimate influence is not limited to the wealthy any more. As such the need for adequate awareness and familiarity with modern technology is an essential life skill for all.

The ever increasing dependence on different technologies in our day to day activities is easily discerned. The changing economic policies and patterns over the past few decades in Sri Lanka through actual policy decisions or due to market forces, accelerates this trend. As a result the career opportunities and livelihoods in the coming years will require not only awareness, but ability to absorb the fundamentals of many different technologies. This is also emphasized by various governmental programmes to change the current labour intensive nature of our industries to a more knowledge based and technology intensive culture.

The teaching of technology at school level should therefore recognize this emerging trends and policy framework to prepare the students adequately. Since it is fool hardy to try to visualize the level and type of technology that would prevail even in a few years time, the teaching methods should be geared to provide the student with adequate learning skills and correct foundations for problem solving on his own. They should be encouraged to "learn to learn" thus being prepared to absorb any new technology without being overawed and in confidence.