

**The short report for effective river basin planning and management – NARBO
2nd training workshop – held on 24th to 29th April 2005**

(Kurupitige Somapala)

Even though the river basin development was not new to Sri Lanka, “river basin management” is new concept in our country. In Sri Lanka river basin development was carried out from 1950 and in 1970 Mahaweli river development scheme was inaugurated with a view to develop dry zone of Sri Lanka.

The agricultural development and major irrigation construction works of Mahaweli development scheme completed by end of 1990 decade. Then therefore it is necessary to change from project implementation to resource management. In 1998 a programme was launched to transform Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka to river basin management agency.

In early 2000, a new division, name of river basin planning and management was formed under Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka, in order to complete the transformation successfully.

I am also working in the specialist core staff of this division. The main objectives of this division are, to preparation of river basin management plan for Mahaweli and connected river basin with establishing new institution as regards etc.

To achieve this objectives, the knowledge gained following subjects through the workshop would be very useful.

1. General review of the river basin management and organization

Considered and strategies for river basin planning and management to be applied were specifically discussed and they were very useful to my activities in MASL.

2. Identification of objectives, issues and constraints in the six participation countries

The issues and constraints arise river basin management and future needs were discussed under this subject. They are very much relevant to my duties in MASL.

3. Historical perspectives of water resource management in Sri Lanka

Strategies used for water resource development in Sri Lanka in the ancient time were discussed under this subject and they are very important to identification new project for future development. These are very useful for my work in the MASL.

4. Problems and constraints at local and national level

Strategies for identification of issues and problems related to the water resource in a river basin level and procedures to be adopted and strategic for identification of future project were discussed and those are very useful for my duties in the MASL.

Finally, I hope to share the knowledge and experience gained through the workshop with other officers in my division of MASL. I wish to maintain that it will be very valuable assistance for river basin management in Sri Lanka.