

## FROM THE EDITOR. . . .

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Power, especially electrical power, is one of the key factors in the development of a country, under the present economic and social context. Since nothing is without cost, the cost of power plays a major role in economic considerations pertaining to a country. Needless to say, power, with the least direct cost, seems most desirable in the short term perspective. However, with key concerns such as environmental responsibility, sustainability, depletion of non-renewable resources, coming into the picture - actually these should have been addressed from a long time past - selecting the most economical option had given way to the optimal option with attached complexities.

It is indeed universally accepted that hydropower is one of the most clean, sustainable and non-depleting options for electricity generation. Recently, however, issues such as eco system imbalances, landmass instabilities, social concerns, etc. have cast heavy concerns on proposed hydropower projects. Coupled with political manipulations, these issues have completely stalled hydropower development in Sri Lanka at a great cost to the nation and inconvenience coupled with financial burden to the public.

A developing country such as Sri Lanka should have a mix of power sources as well as much independence as possible from imported fuels for power generation. Environmental as well as other concerns should be viewed through this perspective in order to arrive at the best compromise in terms of the nation. In this context, commissioning the construction of the Upper Kothmale hydropower project is a landmark achievement for the country.

Technical papers based on various aspects of such on-going development projects in the country are solicited for possible publication in "ENGINEER" and other technical platforms. Practicing Engineers involved in such projects have a great responsibility to compile and publish such information for the national benefit as well as furthering the knowledge of the profession.

**Eng. (Dr.) T. M. Pallewatta**  
**Editor**