

FROM THE EDITOR.....

Tallest self standing tower in South Asia, a remarkable entity indeed, is the newly commissioned Kokavil multi-functional communication tower. Though Sri Lanka is a small country, we have had more than our fair share of biggest, longest, etc., of things to be proud of. Tallest masonry structure - inclusive of foundation, largest sugar factory, biggest school are some that comes to one's mind, without much difficulty. So have we got in to the Guinness book of records in no insubstantial manner through deeds as well as icons. Whatever is said and done, we are a nation inspired by record breaking creations and achievements.

Coming back to Kokavil tower, our object of discussion, it is heartening to note that the design and construction was carried out by a local semi government Engineering organization - namely Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau. Apart from the record setting height, the project has set another record in safety by completing the tower reaching precarious heights, without a single noteworthy accident.

In an era where even the simplest of construction tasks are entrusted to expatriate consultants and constructors, the initiative by the client, the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission and the Government of Sri Lanka, to entrust this extraordinary works to local Engineers is laudable. Further, the pioneering spirit of undertaking such a challenge by the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau Engineers as a *Designed and Built* project has to be commended. This project would have undoubtedly imparted them with a wealth of experience and confidence. All in all, the direction indicated by this successful landmark project is the correct path for sustainable national infrastructure development while consolidating the confidence in the professional skills of our Engineers.

Eng. (Prof.) T. M. Pallewatta, Int. PEng (SL), C. Eng, FIE(SL), FIAE(SL)
Editor, 'ENGINEER', Journal of The Institution of Engineers.