

FROM THE EDITOR.....

The long awaited Upper Kothmale hydropower project was merged to the national electricity grid on 14th July 2012. Though, one of the last couple of viable sites for harnessing national level hydropower potential, this site had languished for over several decades before being developed. Historically, the hindrances to the implementation of this project mainly emanated from different political and social groups, on grounds which were not exactly technical. However, the national electrical power provider, the Ceylon Electricity Board, through hard work and perseverance, was finally able to see the project through to the light of the day.

While being a landmark achievement in itself, this project also reminds us that our hydropower potential is almost totally harnessed, while our need for electrical power is far from being fulfilled. This is a stark deviation from our thoughts of not very long ago, that we could even supply electrical power for our neighbouring country. In an era where renewable energy has become the watchword, more by need than fashion, the realisation that the best source of renewable energy of the country, stands being almost depleted, is aggrieving.

Once upon a time, not long ago, it was one of our eminent Engineers who introduced the hitherto new technology of hydropower to this country. Of course he would have been quite aware of the potential of this new introduction to produce power at a very low unit cost or to put it in today's jargon, being a low cost, environmentally friendly renewable energy source. Again the challenge is with us Engineers, to invent/develop and implement a power source with the same characteristics, as it is the dire need of the era, not to mention the country.

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