

## FROM THE EDITOR.....

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Being strategically placed so as to be able to access 60% of the world within eight hours, is what is to be attained by the recently inaugurated Mattala Rajapakse International Airport. Constructed in a previously remote part of the Southern Province of the country in proximity to the Hambanthota port, this new airport is destined to become the most modern and sophisticated aerodrome in the South Asian region.

Built to satisfy the designation “Code F” specification by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Mattala runway as well as taxiway A (Alpha) can safely accommodate one of the largest modern aircrafts; Airbus A380-800. With the latest air approach control and runway illumination systems coordinated through a state of the art Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower, this new airport will be a safe terminal under adverse weather conditions for incoming as well as departing flights.

With a capacity to handle one million passengers, coupled with 45,000 metric tons of cargo per annum in the completed first phase and expandable to 5 million passengers with 150,000 tons of cargo in the second, this airport has the potential to become the air travel hub of South Asia.

We can really be proud that such an entity had been designed by our Engineers to suit ours as well as international technical requirements, so as to reinforce the conviction of their engineering prowess.

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