

FROM THE EDITOR.....

Hunger for energy is now almost a universal factor throughout the world. This trend has been created by a human kind, which has become increasingly dependent on energy consuming appliances for practically all its real needs as well as the dispensable whims and fancies too. With fossil fuels, the main source of energy today, being depleted at an ever increasing rate, the pampered and spoilt human generation of tomorrow is going to end up in a catastrophe, when energy becomes scarce for even the fundamental functions for the existence of a civilization, as we know today. On the other hand, this could even be a 'blessing in disguise' from the point of view of the environment, which has already become polluted to unacceptable levels, due to fossil fuel emissions in mammoth scales.

Whatever the scenario is, the deliverance from impending doom lies in harnessing sustainable and renewable energy sources for prudent usage. By 'prudent use' what is meant is the use for human necessities in a global scale rather than the personal comforts of a privileged few. In the context of sustainable and renewable energy sources, the most well known and tested is the hydropower, which also has the longest history. In Sri Lanka, hydropower was once synonymous with electricity supply and at some era we even thought that our hydro potential is adequate to export this precious commodity.

Within the harsh realities of the present, where we have become near totally dependant on fossil fuel based electricity apart from nuclear, even the last dregs of the hydropower potential need to be harnessed. The Broadlands hydropower project initiated in the last year could be the last of such national scale endeavours to grace this country. What we have embarked upon here is exactly in line with the motto of our illustrious king Parakramabahu the Great, "Not a drop of water from the sky should reach the sea without gainfully serving the people of the country".

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