

FROM THE EDITOR.....



Ironically, we live in an era where the developed countries are very particular about the 'carbon footprint' of all operations, especially those of not so developed countries, while at the same time, use indicators of development based on per capita energy consumption. This is so, since even today and many more years to come, significantly major part of energy utilized in the world will be derived through non-renewable sources. In other words the per capita energy consumption taken as an indicator of development is in fact quite 'un-green' in its environmental implication. This becomes especially true since the extravagant living styles practiced by rich and the influential all over the world are known to devour energy at an alarming rate.

On the other hand, one has to admit that even to cater to the needs of growing world population, at least at the level of basic human needs, require a huge amount of energy. Therefore, one imperative faced by the present world is harnessing of renewable energy sources at an ever increasing scale while reducing the use of fossil fuels which get depleted while producing green house gases.

Though cognizance of the scientific fact that every energy conversion operation result in a loss directs us to derive our energy needs directly from sunlight, other variants of converted solar energy such as wind and waves are viable sources of renewable energy. In this light, utilization of wind energy in viable regions where adequate wind speeds coupled with lesser ground obstructions are available would be a long term investment in global as well as national levels, though the initial cost of commissioning remains at a high level. Through employment of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power in catering for national needs, Sri Lanka which was once almost entirely serviced with renewable energy and shifted in the past two decades to high level of dependency on fossil fuels could gradually become environmentally friendly again.

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