

මධ්‍යම පරිසර අධිකාරිය

மத்திய சுற்றாடல் அதிகாரசபை

Central Environmental Authority



“පරිසර පියස”, 104, ඩෙන්සිල් කොබ්බෑකඩුව මාවත, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.

“பரிசர பியச”, 104, டென்சில் கொப்பேகடுவ மாவத்தை, பத்தரமுல்லை, இலங்கை.

"Parisara Piyasa", 104, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka . Web : www.cea.lk

අපේ යොමුව } CEA/06/EPU/PR/39/2023
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Press release

CSE – CEA’s joint effort to strengthen the capacity of regulators on EIA

The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi, India have collaborated to conduct a workshop cum training programme on strengthening the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in Sri Lanka. The 1st workshop of the programme was conducted in Colombo from 17th - 18th July 2023 at the CEA Auditorium and the 2nd workshop is scheduled to be held in Kandy from 20th to 21st July 2023.

Although, Sri Lanka has a strong environmental law under the National Environmental Act, it has to face various challenges, when it comes to implementation of those laws, according to the CEA and CSE institutes. To achieve the objective of implementing EIA for prescribed development projects, data collection, impact assessment study, the preparation of the EIA report, and implementation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to facilitate compliance monitoring have to be executed in full spirit.

When implementing, the EIA process responsibilities lie with all relevant stakeholders, CEA, and the project proponent. There is also a need of improving the quality of the EIA report since decisions are being made based on the recommendation of the EIA report. Keeping this in mind, CEA & CSE are conducting a workshop cum capacity building programme to enhance the knowledge of environmental regulators to ensure better implementation of EIA in Sri Lanka.

Thus, two-day training programmes aim to capacitate regulators on how environmental impacts are identified and how to review EIA reports and preparation of EMP explaining some case studies from India. In addition, there was a special lecture on the accreditation scheme for EIA consultants by Mr. Nivit Kumar Yadav, Director, CSE, India which is not currently practiced in Sri Lanka.

“Sri Lanka has strong environmental laws for implementing the EIA process. However, there are some gaps which need to be addressed to achieve the standards of the best international practices. Accordingly, proper data systems, good quality EIA reports, development of proper review systems, to evaluate EIA reports, enhancing the involvement of civil society, and compliance of approved projects through well-prepared EMPs are essential. Sri Lanka needs to improve the transparency when it comes to environmental compliance which will push industries to take extra measures to comply with statutory norms” says Mr. Nivit Kumar Yadav.

Mr. Supun S Pathirage, Chairman, CEA, and Mr. P B Hemantha Jayasinghe, Director General, CEA expressed their gratitude to the CSE Institute for their contribution in holding such a workshop and

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pointed out the benefits of environment conservation work in Sri Lanka through strengthening the EIA process.

The workshop held in Colombo on 17th and 18th July 2023 was inaugurated with the participation of Mr. Supun S Pathirage, Chairman, CEA, and Mr. P B Hemantha Jayasinghe, Director General, CEA, and the workshop was conducted by representing the Indian team, Mr. Nivit Kumar Yadav, Director of CSE and Dr. D D Basu, Advisor of CSE and Mr, Rajivu Aundhe, Director of AESPL [Aditya Environmental Services (Pvt) Ltd.] participated and Ms. Nilmini Attanayake, director of EIA unit of CEA.

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Supun S Pathirage
Chairman
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