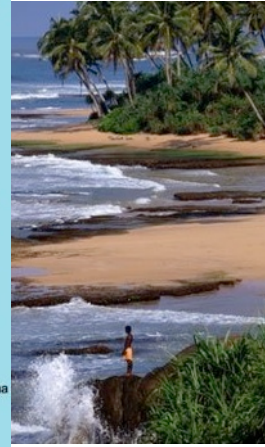


Sri Lanka

The conference organizers welcome you to a tropical island located in the Indian Ocean with close proximity to India with a history of over twenty five centuries. It, also, has a recorded history of a hydraulic civilization that flourished during the first millennium. The island covers some 65,525 sq.km. and has 103 distinct river basins that radiate from central highland region that rises 2525 meters above the sea level. Today it is the home for about 19 million people with diverse ethnic origins comprising Sinhalese (74%), Tamils (18%) and Muslims (8%) with tiny minorities of Burghers and Malays.

Sri Lanka is rich with remarkable biodiversity and breathtaking landscape including world famous golden beaches with blue lagoons. It is a great travel destination full of hospitality, delicious exotic cuisine and historical wonders which date back to over two thousand five hundred years.



International Conference on Water in the Humid Tropics

4TH December 2006, Kandy, Sri Lanka

A pre-conference to

Humid Tropical Ecosystems

5 -9th December, 2006, Kandy, Sri Lanka,
commemorating the 50th anniversary of UNESCO
Humid Tropics Programme

Organized by

United Nations University

and

the International Water Management Institute



Kandy

A city nestling among the misty hills in the central region is the last royal capital of Sri Lanka. Kandy, surrounded by the River Mahawali and Hantana mountain range, lies at an altitude of 488 meters above sea level and 115km from the commercial capital Colombo. It belongs to wet zone with an average temperature of 27° C In December weather become quite mild with temperatures around 24°C.

Situated at the heart of Kandy city is the Kandy Lake and world heritage "Dalada Maligawa" or Temple of the Tooth which houses the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha. Nearby Kandy, at Peradeniya is the Royal Botanical Garden where the many beautiful avenues provide a burst of tropical colours and great lawns with huge tropical trees and Herbarium which grows many of the plants used for the traditional Ayurvedic pharmacopoeia. Recently constructed multi purpose reservoirs, which provide significant portion of nation's power requirement and water to dry zone for irrigation can be reached within a few hours drive from Kandy.

Abstract Submission: Deadline: 31 October, 2006

Format: An extended abstract up to 2 A4 size pages, that covers (a) Issues addressed in relation to the conference themes (b) objectives (c) methodologies adopted and (d) summary of results/proposal

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In collaboration with

MAB committee Sri Lanka

National Science Foundation Sri Lanka

The International MAB secretariat,

Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO.



Event

The International conference on “**Humid Tropical Ecosystems: Changes, Challenges and Opportunities**”, will be held in Kandy, Sri Lanka from 5 -9th December, 2006 to mark the 50th anniversary of UNESCO Humid Tropics Programme and formulate an agenda for the programme. Following issues will be addressed in this conference.

- Minimizing biodiversity loss
- Adapting to climate change
- Promoting sustainable development

Further details of the main conference are available at <http://www.mablanka.lk/hte/>

A pre-conference on “**Water in the Humid Tropics**” will be held on 4th December considering the importance of water and human interaction with the water environment for sustainable development globally. This conference would be a place to synthesize trends and challenges in meeting the growing water needs in the humid tropics.

Focus

Efficient water management is a key issue for the tropics, where rapid growth of population, industries and economies place heavy demands on finite fresh water resources. Effective policies based on realistic assessments should be implemented at the local scale considering the resource availability, water demands and environmental interactions. Over exploitation of surface and ground water resources is a common phenomena brought about by the growing demands for freshwater due to increasing population and per capita consumption. Together with large scale human intervention such as urbanization and deforestation, these practices tend to change the basin water cycle whose equilibrium is critical to the other material and life cycles associated with the water circulation. These challenges are intensified by the high variability of both inter-annual and intra-annual rainfall in the Humid Tropics. *Ecohydrology*, a new approach in sciences that promotes the integration of hydrology and sustainable management of water resources can provide new insights and directions in managing and preserving the cycle for sustainable development. This concept has been developed with close interactions between IHP (international hydrologic program) and MAB and will be developed and expanded in the seventh phase of IHP. The 50th anniversary International Conference on Humid Tropical Ecosystems provide an excellent opportunity to discuss unique water management challenges arising from specific characteristics of lifestyles, climate and geology of Humid Tropics.



Themes under discussion

- Impacts on hydrology and water resources due to climate and human induced environmental changes
- Water related risks: Extreme events
- Sustainable water management: Demand management, best practices
- Multiple use aspects of water

A single registration entitles participants to both “Humid Tropics Water” and “Humid Tropical Ecosystems” Conferences.

Registration details are available at:
<http://www.mablanka.lk/hte/index.php>

Please send the following information for future communication to: *HTW secretariat*

First Name: Prof._ / Dr._ / Mr._ / Ms_ /
Family Name:.....
Other Names:.....

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Contact Number(s):

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Fax:.....

E-mail:.....