

# Regional Seminar on Small Hydro Power Development in Sri Lanka : Lessons for Developing Countries



July 18, 19 & 20, 2007

Grand Hotel,  
Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka

**PRACTICAL ACTION**  
Consulting



Organised by  
Practical Action Consulting - South Asia

Following the “oil crisis” in 1974 there was a worldwide interest in searching for alternative energy sources to supplement the conventional energy supplies. Although there were no major government strategies in this direction in Sri Lanka at the time, few organisations initiated work on renewable energy development through a variety of activities. Among them is the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG – now renamed as Practical Action,) which invested heavily to revive the small hydro power technology that once flourished in the estate sector but went into disuse with the expansion of the national grid system. ITDG also undertook pioneering work in adapting the small hydro power technology for rural electricity supply which is now being used on a commercial scale in the country. This work was begun 25 years ago.

Having realised the long-term potential for small hydropower development, ITDG invested substantial time and money in capacity building to enable local technical personnel to lead the small hydropower industry in Sri Lanka. These training programmes targeted a range of technical personnel – from maintenance technicians in estates to engineers in the government organisations and private companies. Over hundred persons benefited from ITDG's training programmes and some of them are now holding senior

positions in hydropower companies, banks, consulting companies, equipment manufacturing companies and universities.

As an organisation that played a key role in developing the small hydro industry in Sri Lanka, Practical Action is happy to note that the grid connected small hydropower capacity has grown from 120 kW in 1996 to 100 MW in 2006. Development of the industry has been supported with appropriate policy changes, establishing of purchase agreements and pricing mechanisms. This, indeed, is an outstanding achievement and depicts the dynamism of the local entrepreneurship once the right institutional backing and investment climate are set in place for the new industry.

As the industry completes a decade of small hydropower development, it seems useful to assess the impact of this development on the national economy, to consolidate the knowledge gained by various stakeholders in the sector and to learn lessons for the future. As an international development organisation, Practical Action also intends to share the Sri Lankan experience with other developing countries, and seminar is for this purpose.

Regional Seminar on  
**“Small Hydro Power  
Development in Sri Lanka:  
Lessons for Developing  
Countries”**

**July 18, 19 & 20, 2007**

**OBJECTIVES**

- Disseminate wider the Sri Lankan small hydropower experience: evolution of the small hydro power generation industry in Sri Lanka highlighting the rapid progress over the last 10 years, contributing factors and lessons learned.
- Compile a publication incorporating all the presentations and discussions made at the conference. This will be a valuable guideline/case study for similar exercises within the region and beyond.

**The programme includes**

- Two day residential seminar
- One day technical visit to a small hydro development site

**FEE**

US\$ 350

This includes, accommodation (full board) from July 17<sup>th</sup> evening to July 20<sup>th</sup> noon, seminar material, field trip and copy of the final document (once it is published).

Transport from Colombo in a common coach could be provided if necessary.

# Agenda

## Day 1

08.30 – 09.00 a.m. Registration  
09.00 – 09.45 a.m. Inauguration and opening remarks

### Session 1

09.45 – 10.30 a.m. Evolution of hydro power sector in Sri Lanka; off grid and grid connected project experience  
10.30 – 10.50 a.m. Tea  
10.50 – 11.35 a.m. Policy framework and initiatives for the promotion of SHP sector  
11.35 – 12.20 p.m. Technical limitations and possible solutions from the perspective of utility  
12.20 – 12.50 p.m. Discussion  
12.50 – 2.00 p.m. Lunch

### Session 2

2.00 – 2.45 p.m. Economical designs and case studies: failures and success stories  
2.45 – 3.30 p.m. Project planning, monitoring and construction experience of small hydropower projects  
3.30 – 3.50 p.m. Coffee  
3.50 – 4.35 p.m. Operation and maintenance of small hydropower plants  
4.35 – 5.00 p.m. Discussion

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## Day 2

### Session 3

08.45 – 09.30 a.m. Financing small hydropower projects  
09.30 – 10.15 a.m. Impact of ESDP/RERED on small hydropower development  
10.15 – 10.45 a.m. Discussion  
10.45 – 11.05 a.m. Tea

### Session 4

11.05 – 11.50 a.m. Regional Experience 1 - Nepal  
11.50 – 12.35 p.m. Regional Experience 2 - India  
12.35 - 1.45 p.m. Lunch  
1.45 – 2.30 p.m. Transfer of Sri Lankan small hydropower experience to Africa

### Session 5

2.30 – 3.45 p.m. Discussion – Way Forward  
Requirements of stakeholders – Training, policy changes, technical assistance, financial assistance, institutional strengthening  
3.45 – 4.10 p.m. Coffee  
4.10 – 5.00 p.m. Closing Ceremony

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## Day 3

### Field visit

# REGISTRATION

Please fill in the information overleaf and send it along with the payment before 26<sup>th</sup> June to :

Country Manager

**Practical Action Consulting**

No. 5, Lionel Edirisinghe Mw, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka.

Fax | +94 (011) 2856188

Email | consulting@practicalaction.org.lk

Name | .....

Designation | .....

Organisation .....

Address | .....

Telephone | .....

Fax | .....

Email | .....

Payment mode | Cash/Cheque/TT/Bank Draft

Payment | LKR/USD .....

Bank | .....

**Fee** | US\$ 350

**Payment mode** | Cheque/Bank draft/TT (Drawn in favour of **ITDG South Asia**)

**Bank** | Standard Chartered Bank

Fort Branch, 37, York Street, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.

**A/C** | 01119508577 (External Account)

**Swift code** | SCBLLKLX

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellation must be made in writing at least two weeks prior to commencement of the seminar. Thereafter, no refund will be made. However, substitutions are allowed. The organisers reserve the right to cancel or postpone the seminar due to unforeseen circumstances. For cancellations, full refund will be made.

# Practical Action Consulting

Practical Action Consulting is the new name for Intermediate Technology Consultants (ITC). For over 35 years we have provided development consultancy services as the consulting arm of the international NGO Practical Action, formerly Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG). We provide high quality independent and professional advice to governments, NGOs, aid agencies and the private sector.

Practical Action Consulting operates regional offices in the UK, Eastern and Southern Africa and South Asia, staffed with experienced development experts. Our offices have enabled the development of extensive local networks with a range of development practitioners. We also draw on the skills and expertise of over 400 development professionals working on Practical Action's regional development programmes, based at offices in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Zimbabwe. Our longstanding engagement in technologies and developing countries has enabled us to build up an extensive network of over

600 international consultants, managed from our head office in the UK. Standards of performance are ensured through formal and transparent reporting mechanisms ensuring a high and consistent level of quality.

Our work focuses on improving access to essential basic services and enabling sustainable livelihoods for poor and isolated communities in rural and urban locations. We work in the following sectors:

- Energy
- Transport
- Irrigation, Water and Sanitation
- Agro-processing and food production
- Disaster mitigation
- ICTs
- Housing and Shelter
- Integrated Urban Development
- Business Development Services/SMEs

Our expertise in these sectors includes technology assessment and feasibility studies; social and economic analysis; market appraisals; due diligence surveys; policy option assessments; private and public sector involvement; institutional and organisational development.

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## Practical Action Consulting - South Asia

No. 5, Lionel Edirisinghe Mw, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka.

T | +94 11 282941 F | +94 11 2856188

E | [consulting@practicalaction.org.lk](mailto:consulting@practicalaction.org.lk)

W | [www.practicalactionconsulting.org](http://www.practicalactionconsulting.org)