





Minister of Science, Technology and Research together with the Sri Lankan delegation participated in the first joint conference agreed to in the MoU signed to promote scientific corporation between the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka and the National Natural Science Foundation of China.





he National Solar Cell Project which will introduce the latest technology to manufacture solar panels locally through the placement of solar cells on a thin membrane has been launched. The project will also conduct training courses in the universities

of Colombo, Ruhuna, Jaffna and Kelaniya to train individuals on solar cell technology. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Research has received cabinet approval to fund the project.

Continued on Page 3...

The National Undergraduate



he first National Undergraduate Research Symposium organized by the National Science and Technology Commission was held under the patronage of Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Susil Premajayantha at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Research and the National Science and Technology Commission have identified that the National Research and Development Plan needs to focus and act on 10 key development sectors of the country.

Continued on Page 3...



Tears of International Conference for Sri Lankan Tea Culture

he AlTea 2017 (Advances in Tea) International Conference to celebrate 150 years of the 'Culture of Sri Lankan Tea' and to promote further advances in tea cultivation was held recently at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall under the patronage of Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Susil Premajayantha. The conference was organized by the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Sri Lanka Tea Research Institute and the Colombo Tea Traders Association. The aim of the conference was to provide a platform to exchange the latest research and knowledge on tea cultivation with renowned scientists, experts, researchers and

ested parties and to work out a future plan of action for the industry. The conference also presented the cur-

rent developments in tea agronomy, tea industry technology, tea and creating value addition, preparation and its sales both locally and internationally. In addition international experts and researchers presented their latest findings under the themes of 'Tea Science', 'Tea and Health', 'Tea Industry' and 'Tea Culture. At the inaugural sessions, the key note address was delivered by Prof Kwan J Song of the Jeju National University of



Korea. The Chancellor of Wayamba University, Prof Tuley De Silva, Secretary to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Udaya R Seneviratne, Wayamba University Vice Chancellor, Prof E.M.P. Ekanayake and dignitaries, scientists and researchers representing the countries of Sri Lanka, China, Korea, Japan, India and various other countries

in the event.

Duleep Nayanapriya participated **Media Unit**



he 10th International Research Conference of the Kotalawala Defence University (KDU) was declared open by Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Susil Premajayantha at the University premises. The theme of this year's seminar was "The Changing Dynamics in the Global Environment: Challenges and Opportunities". The conference is recorded to be one of the leading research conferences in the

world.

civil scholars exchange and disseminate knowledge gained through research and scholarly studies. A large number of scholars both international and local participated at the event. The conference organized under 9 thematic sessions expects 365 papers in total to be presented in them. World renowned Sri Lankan scholars - Prof Chandra Wickramasingheand Dr Bandula Wije,

where both military and

were bestowed Honorary Professorships by KDU in recognition of their invaluable contribution to the advancement of science. Chancellor of KDU, Mr. Daya Sandagiri, Secretary to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Mr. Udaya R Seneviratne, Commanders of the Tri-forces and international and local dignitaries also participated in the event.

he solar eclipse experienced by North Americans on 21 August was a memorable event. The reason being that the solar eclipse was one where North

other inter-

America experienced a total eclipse of the sun. This is a very rare astronomical event. Day turns into night and as you see stars shining during the day, even you would be surprised at such a sight. It would be an event you will not forget in a lifetime. Such an event was experienced by Sri Lankans in 1955. Our grandparents recall it thus, "As I remember, it was on 20 June that it took place. It was around 7.00 in the morning, and the sky began to darken little by little. After an hour, it was as if it was 6 or 7 at night, and stars began to show. The animals panicked and birds flew away. Many young women believed in a myth that if you consumed a certain Ayurvedic Preparation

An unforgettable

at that time, they would get prettier and had to be admitted to hospital". The science behind the solar eclipse Eclipses are astronomical events. Those on Earth witness one Celetrial Object partially or completely covering another Celetrial Object. There are two main eclipses important to those on Earth. They are the solar and lunar eclipses. Many of you would have experienced the lunar eclipse which took place on Full Moon Poya Day this August. Each year on average we have around four eclipses. They are made up of two solar and two lunar eclipses. On a rare occasion, we would have five eclipses happening in a year. There are four types of solar eclipses. They are; the total solar

eclipse, partial solar eclipse, hybrid eclipse and annular eclipse. When a solar eclipse takes place, the manner in which it is witnessed by a certain country is depended on the country's geographical location on the world map. A total solar eclipse witnessed by one country might just be seen as a partial solar eclipse by another.

At the time of a solar eclipse, the



moon casts two types of shadows on the Earth:

- Umbra- this is the dark center portion of a small shadow.
- Penumbra- the lighter outer part of the shadow.

If you are within the Moon's umbra and look into the direction of the Sun, you will see a total solar eclipse as the Moon blocks the all of the Sun and if you are within the penumbra, you will notice a partial eclipse.

The distance of the sun to the Earth is

0.384 million kilometres 149.6 million kilometres ne positions of the Earth, Moon and Sun at a time of total solar eclipse

400 times that of the moon to the Earth. The sun's diameter is 400 times larger than that of the moon. But for those on Earth, we see the sun and moon to be of similar size. Thus we see the face of the moon completely covering the face of the sun. Thus as light from the sun is blocked from reaching the Earth, we experience a few minutes of night.

Continued on Page 7 ...

A Presentation by Sri Lanka Planetarium



Science and Technology aid for the

and of small and medium

he State Ministry of Science, Technology and Research recently organized a Science and Technology Assistance programme at the Industrial Technology Institute with the aim of using science to help resolve issues faced by entrepreneurs. The State Ministry of Science, Technology and Research which functions under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research coordinates the 'Vidatha' programme which seeks to transfer scientific knowledge to villages. Vidatha Resource Centres have been established in around 270 divisional secretariats around the country, encompassing all districts. This national programme has thus far created close to 3000 small and medium enterprises in various sectors. Among these are successful entrepreneurs who

have developed direct links with major super market chains and have even managed to export their goods to the international

> The Ministry through its evalu

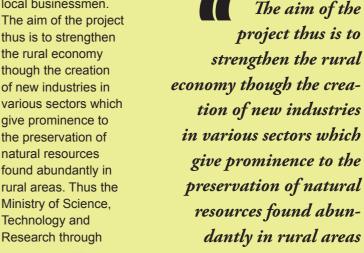
ation of the programme discovered that many of the entrepreneurs built through the Vidatha programme were

able to progress further through the improvement of their industries and that the programme helped them resolve many of their technological problems, resolve technical problems related to various instruments and helped them in improving sales. Accordingly the Science and **Technology Assistance** Programme was un-

dertaken under the directive of State Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Lakshman Seneviratne to further resolve these issues faced by entrepreneurs. Here the Vidatha Resource Centre established at the divisional secretariat level was able to coordinate the latest findings and research coming from the various research institutes under the ministry, other research organizations and universities and deliver it to to guide and provide knowledge to interested individuals who want to be

it Vidatha Resource Centres is able

local businessmen.



preneurs. The programme is available for entrepreneurs connected with Vidatha Centres in Kandy, Kegalle and Ratnapura districts and in future the Ministry plans on expanding the Science and Technology Assistance Programme step





entrepreneurs and be self-employed whilst also assisting existing ones further expand their businesses and create niche for themselves in the market. The Science and Technology Assistance programme in the meantime brings the expertise of the Industrial Technology Institute, National Engineering Research and Development Centre, Sri Lanka Standards Institute, Industrial Development Board, Laksala and the National Design Centre to help small and medium entre-

by step to other districts in the island to help entrepreneurs in the relevant areas.

Dulip Nayanapriya Media Unit

The National Undergraduate....

From Page 1.

These sectors are; water, food, agriculture and nutrition, health, housing, environment, power, natural resources, garments and weaving, information



technology, technology connected to knowledge based services and indigenous knowledge. The country's renowned scientists, technicians, economists and related parties

were of the view that there needed to be a development oriented interventions in these sectors through the national research and development plan. It was also pointed out that it was important to create a culture of research in the country and move forward using a multidisciplinary approach in order to achieve the many goals in the national plan.

The 8th bi annual Science and Technology Conference (BICOST- VIII) organized by the National Science and Technology Conference also made it a goal to further encourage new research undertaken by undergraduates currently studying at university. Thus the aim of this symposium was to provide the opportunity for undergraduates to present their research papers for review to a panel of experts in the field. This year's symposium had over 50 papers submitted to it by undergraduates and the panel chose 37 of the best papers to be presented at the symposium.

Commercial Scale...

From Page 1...

The Minister of Science, Technology and Science, Susil Premajayantha, Prof Sirimala Fernando of the National Science Foundation, Prof Lakshman Dissanayake of the Institute of Fundamental Studies, Engineer Anjula Sivakumar and other dignitaries embarked on an inspection tour of the Advanced Solar Power (ASP) plant in the

city of Hangzhou in China to study the commercial scale manufacturing of solar cell panels. A Sri Lankan scientist knowledgeable in the damage certain chemicals used in the manufacturing process would cause to the environment also joined them on the Chinese tour. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Research thus hopes to in the near future use the information gathered through the trip to introduce commercial scale solar cell manufacturing technology to Sri Lanka thus creating a major breakthrough in the industry.

Assistance given to Research

and Development has to be

increased

We have stepped into the most competitive hi - tech world. As the world pursues continuous technological advancement, research and engineering brings with it boundless value to this endeavor. The National Engineering Research and Development Centre is responsible to look into new inventions. new products that could be used one day and to pioneer engineers with altra modern techniques.

Wednesday the 30th of August 2017

Establishment

The National Engineering Research and Development has history of 43 years and dates back to 1974. It was the first unit established in Sri Lanka to handle all aspects related to engineering. In 1974, in the presence of Professor K.K.W. Perera the Centre was started at the Moratuwa University. As there were space issues, the Centre was shifted to the Ekala Industrial Zone on 14 August 1977.

Research

The Centre which consists of engineers, researchers and technicians, is today engaged in research related to civil engineering, renewable energy, electrical & electronics, mechatronics and agriculture and post-harvest technology. It handles into new innovations, funds new innovations and provides necessary assistance to innovators. The Centre renders a great service to the community which was established with the aim of developing technology in the engineering sector. Accordingly, the services rendered by NERD should be appreciated and they support the country to develop socially and economically. The basic structure of the

able energy

- Mission -

Centreconsists of renew-

To be the centre of excellence in engineering research and development in the South Asian region and to be an institution which would assist in the economic and social development of the country through engineering technology.

ment, energy and environment management center, civil engineering department, electronic & electrical department, mechatronics division, techno marketing department, finance department and human resource department.

Services

NERDC has introduced new technology, technology transfers, provides consultancy on NERDC cost effective building technology, consultancies on energy & environmental management, provides detailed audit reports, supports on industry related technological assistance, consultancies on electronics & electrical fields, training of professionals offering through various training programs. In addition NERDC leads on international technology transfers; quality auditing of solar panels & issuing reports. Furthermore, the NERDC also assists in disseminating novel technology in the different geographical areas. Apart from these, Techno Marketing Department, Technology Incubator and Energy & **Environmental Management Department** are offering their services to the general public of the country.





Technology Transfers

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NEED LECHNOLOGY LYKK

One of the major tasks of NERDC is to transfer the technologies & other inventions to the people who are

> interested to start up their own businesses as entrepreneurs. Although the research is very vital for the development of the country, the real development measures are evaluated on how the research out comes are being used & implemented in real life situations. In this scenario, technology transfers, providing required training s on time, support to emerging entrepreneurs in their technological issues are successfully handles by Techno Marketing Department at the moment.

Technology Park and Museum

Technology Park and Engineering Museum which belong to NERDC, do provide more

valuable opportunity for school students & university students to grab practical experience on their theory lessons. The Technology Park was established to commemorate the 25th year of NERDC, whilst the Engineering Museum was established

during year 2013. Apart from students

lots of self employees and people who interested in startup small scale business can grab ideas & technology from NERDC technology park. Further the general public has got the chance of visiting these places to get exposure for NERDC developed technologies as well as technology transformation cross section throughout the history.

Foremost in Engineering Technology

W. A. S Nisansala Kumari **Photos: Gayan Pushpika**



Namal **Director General NERD Centre**

Development of a country is assessed by the developments in its research and technology. This fact is noticied clearly in the profiles of developed countries. But in countries like ours, the biggest issue is in carrying out research activities until a real prototype is formed. Not being able to go forward is a real issue. There are plenty of people in our country with the best of abilities and talents and they do conduct many research and innovations. However, taking their novel innovations to the market, as a user friendly product with

NERDC provides opportunities for research development

an economical value is not an easy task. And also regret to mention that a lot of new innovations and ideas are stuck within our universities due to this factor

Therefore, as NERDC, we have already stepped in to several initiatives to combat the issue. We have started to work with the universities to get use of the research and new innovations, which are initiated in universities, to make sure that they get their due place. We are also very happy to mention that we have initiated a new initiative, called Technology Incubator at NERDC to assist the people with innovations and ideas who are looking for assistance to develop it in to a prototype. The Technology Incubator has been established with novel hi-tech equipments and all other necessary facilities. Hopefully this would be opened for innovators & entrepreneurs by next year.



Eng Shavindranath Fernando, Chairman. **NERD Centre**

National Engineering Research and Development Centre of Sri Lanka is the only Centre established so far to conduct engineering research and developments. Research is conducted as primary research and practical research. Most are involved in the primary research. Development activities is the second phase of it. Even though many researches have been carried out in our country, only a few are implemented & succeeded. But NERD Centre provides all necessary support for the engineers to conduct their researches

number of researches conducted in NERDC were based on civil engineering. Since its inception, NERDC pioneered research related to electrical engineering I am very glad to say that the "Prashakthi Lamp" (Prashakthi Pahana) was innovated by NERDC. That helped to provide electricity to several rural areas. For example, street lamps in rural areas carry an unsafe electrical circuit. At present, research on a methodology of creating safe street lamps is ongoing. How can we make use of solar energy in our country? Research is being conducted to find out how we can make maximum use of solar energy. Sri Lanka is marching very

slowly compared to other coun-

tries. Why are we like that? The

knowledge, intellect and skills of

our people are excellent. there

is no doubt about that. But, it

has to be sadly stated that our

country is at a very low level of

utilizing them. I see the lack of

opportunity as the main cause

When we lookback the most

power and the push they are getting to go forward are not sufficient. The amount money we invest for research and development is problemmatical when compared with other countries. Furthermore, talking of inventions, what happenes is that they are dropped on the way. They are not directed to practical use. As a solution to that, we are planning to establish a Technology Incubator in the future.

for that. Straightly speaking, the

An invention is a new idea. Inventions related to engineering, face greater challenges when they need to be manufactured, commercially. The reason could be that this process of invention needs a prototype. The inventor does his project with the raw materials available to him. And a massive amount of money has to be spent on manufacturing. Therefore NERDC provides support for the inventors to develop their prototype. NERDC would help them collect required materials and complete the project. The support of the government is vital to make it a success. We expect Rs 80 million from the government this year. We expect make a success of this. That will be a great backing to purchase essential machinery and equipment and to establish required facilities. It can be stated that we are taking the lead is providing assistance to bring any research project to active level and creating its prototype. However, our path goes beyond crating an invention. We have a challenging path of generating a usable product some day. But. we have the ablity to overcome all challenges. We are ready to assist any inventor till the end of the process. Even now we havs many equipment necessary for that. This institution should become a place where tools of the highest technology is being made. We should reach that position.





This article would help all those who have dreams to build their own houses and settle down. The price and technical methods used to build these houses are the results of research conducted by the National Engineering and Research Development Centre of Sri Lanka (NERDC).

Construction of similar houses would suit the economic condition of our people as well. All the methods and technology used in the construction are internationally approved methods. The use of raw materials would be reduced

be spent on that method. In order to do away with the above-mentioned method, NERDC has found a novel method. The following is the method carried out by

- Foundation for Columns
- Foundation for Walls
- Plinth Beam
- Plinth Wall

Nearly 40 percent of the money spent on the usual methods can be saved through the above method and when laying the foundapillars, pre-stressed concrete columns are used. Pre-stressed concrete pillars have more strength compared to the usual pillars.

Normally when building a single storied house, columns of 4' into 4' and 5' into 5' and for double or more storied houses columns of 6' into 6' would be constructed.

The time spent on constructing the building can be reduced as the pre-

stressed concrete columns can be constructed at the time of laying the foundation.

the expenditure on the foundation is less

- There is no need for support props thus the first floor can be inhabited quicker
- Soffit Plastering not necessary
- Use of timber reduced
- Less use of for steel
- The construction process will be quickened
- Compared to normal construction, the cost involved can be reduced by 30 percent.

When constructing the slab, the precast concrete purling needs to be placed at a width of 2" – 0" and on top of that either ferrocement shuttering or plywood shuttering is used and on that 10 2" 2" T.D. square wire mesh is placed and covered with a 2" thick concrete layer.

When constructing a wall, because brick walls and plastering use a lot of sand, instead of this method new environment-friendly methodology has been introduced. They are mainly,

- Slip Form Walls and
- Cement Stabilized Compressed Soil Blocks.

Slip Form Walls

Cement and quarry dust at a 1:10 ratio has to be mixed and can be used as a paste. The walls can be built with 4", 5" and 6" widths. The walls can be painted after applying 'putty' (poty) on them. Therefore the cost will be reduced by 30 percent than normally constructed walls. Cement Stabilized Compressed Soil Blocks

These soil cement blocks can be used instead of normal clay bricks.

Hand machines and hydraulic machines can be used to manufacture Cement Stabilized Compressed Soil Blocks and that would ensure the sustainability of walls build using them. There is no need for plastering afterwards. The Chemifix mixture will give a beautiful

Construction of roofs

The roof is one of the most important parts of the house. Normally, timber or concrete would be used to construct the roof. The components used by

NERDC's cost-effective building technology would reduce the usage of timber and the cost involved also would be reduced by 30 percent. The use of NERDC cost-effective building technology to build houses will greatly benefit the social and economic development of the country.

Your dream house at affordable price

IRDC Cost Effective Housing Technolog





under this method. This would lead to self-occupations and the time taken to complete the construction of a house would be reduced.

Planning for the building

As economically sustainable buildings are to be constructed, the methods going to be used have to be clearly stated. When planning the money allocated for the construction, the size of the building and the infrastructure need to be decided considering the land area. a quality building can be constructed if the methods and measures are very well planned. A house that economically suits you can be constructed. According to the will of the owner, single unit houses or double storied houses can be built.

Foundation

The foundation is the most important aspect when building a house. Before laying the foundation for the building, one has to take good notice of the soil of the land. Usually rubble of 6" into 9' is used, yet more time and money has to

tion to build columns at the ground level, a Plinth Beam will be constructed. Afterwards, a mixture of cement and quarry dust in the proportions of 1:10 would be used to build the walls. The cross section of the wall would depend on the following elements such as:

- nature of the soil
- the distance between columns
- the weight on the beam and
- the width of walls built on the beams.

Precast Concrete Components

Precast Concrete Components introduced by NERDC. The Precast Concrete Components are used for the following purposes:

- Concrete door frame
- Concrete window frame
- Concrete louvers
- Balcony handrails and
- Ferro-cement canopies.

NERDC Concrete Slabs

NERDC has introduced a very effective way to reduce the costs involved in building multi-storied buildings. Following are the benefits of using NERDC concrete slabs:

As the weight of concrete is less,



Pre-stressed Concrete Columns

According to the NERDC system, instead of normal concrete

Pics - Gayan Pushpika

t is a pleasure for NERDC to provide innovative support ad has added a new aspect whilst celebrating their anniversary. NERDC has formed a Technical Incubator. It has been established under the Techno Marketing Department to facilitate innovators and entrepreneurs in converting their ideas into real prototypes. Given the bad experiences faced by the

Astonishing technical support by

innovators, this Technical Incubator would help them with necessary technical support.

Innovators often have issues regarding turning their ideas into reality, in finding materials and to implement engineering aspects to their innovations. Therefore, the newly established Technology Incubator would provide them the assistance.

The National Engineering Research and Development Centre (NERDC) is ready

to provide
new innovators necessary
assistance
and to make
their dreams
come true.
To get further
information on

the abovementioned Technical Incubator, please contact 011 2234266 or email tmdd@nerdc.lk



Wednesday the 30th of August 2017



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What's new about Astronomy?

An unmanned Space Probe to Titan

• It is believed that unmanned space vehicles could be landed on liquid methane lakes on Titan, the largest moon of Saturn in the future. This has been discovered as a result of a research conducted at University of Texas, USA. The reason for expressing this idea of landing unmanned space

space ve-



01. Total Solar Eclipse



02. Partial Solar Eclipse



03. Annular Solar Eclipse



04. Hybrid Solar Eclipse

hicles on these lakes is the calm environment prevailing on those lakes as the waves on those lakes rise only up to a very short height of 1 cm.
Furthermore, this is the only Moon in the solar system with an atmosphere and it is believed that life could generate on Titan because of the raw

material on that moon.

Two new moons to planet Jupiter

 American astronomer Scott S, Sheppard has discovered two Moons of Jupiter and with those two Moons the total number of Moons of Jupiter is 69.

annular solar eclipse, in some

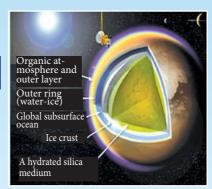
other areas people will see it

as a partial solar eclipse. The

gust was seen as a total solar

recent solar eclipse on 21st Au-

eclipse in Northern America and



Continued from page 02... An Unforgettable Solar Eclipse...

A total solar eclipse can be clearly seen only in a smaller area on Earth. Some countries on the other hand see the same as a partial solar eclipse. A partial solar eclipse can be seen when the sun, the moon and the Earth are a little deviated from a linear position. An annular eclipse will be seen when the moon is far from the Earth and the Moon does not fully cover the Sun. As seen in the Picture 03, the sun will be seen as a ring in the middle of darkness and that is known as an Annular Solar Eclipse.

When people from some

parts of the Earth watch an

Western Europe while some parts of Asia, South America and some parts of Africa saw a partial solar eclipse.

The next solar eclipse will be visible on 2nd July 2019 and will be seen only in South America.

But on 26th December 2019, people in Sri Lanka will be able to see the annular solar eclipse very well. This will be seen very clearly in the Trincomalee area and Colombo would witness a

partial solar eclipse. Sri Lanka

would
witness
another solar
eclipse on 04th
November 2070. It
has been revealed that
human beings will never be
able to witness a solar eclipse
in the years to come. The
moon is annually drifting 3.8
cm apart from the Earth and
therefore the moon will not be
able to totally cover the sun in
the future.

As looking at a solar eclipse would affect sight, it is recommended to use appropriate glasses to observe the same.



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CO-ORGANIZED BY

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ல்நுட்பவியல் மற்றும் ஆராய்ச்சி அமை Science,Technology and Research

EVOLUTION OF SCIENCE

BIG BANG TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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Faculty of Science විද**න පි**ඨය University of Kelaniya | කැලණිය විශ්වවිද**පා**ලය



Science Exhibition විද හා පුදර්ශනය

9.00 am onwards at Faculty premises



FEATURING



Undergraduate innovation competition In association with

Sri Lanka Inventors Commission

Registrations closing on 31st Aug

University based events:

Robotic battle, Robotic game, Computer gaming competition, Hackathon, Photography competition

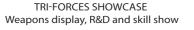
School based events:

Chemistry magic show, Astronomy night camp, Drama competition, Robotic competition, Computer gaming competition, Hackathon, Photography Green innovation competition

Visit us @ science.kln.ac.lk/vidva2017



Media Partner



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Our Research and Services

Our Research

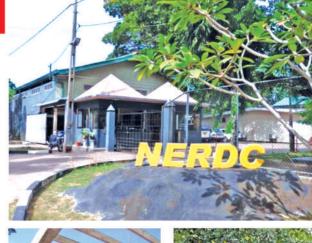
- **Research on Civil Engineering**
- **Research on Renewable Energy**
- **Research on Mechatronics**
- Research on Agricultural Engineering and Post-harvest Technology

Our Services

- Introduction of new technology
- **Technology transfers**
- Consultancy services on NERDC Cost-effective Building Technology
- **Provision of Energy Audit Reports**
- Consultancy services on environmental management systems for industries
- Industry-related technical assistance
- Coordination of national and international change of technology transfers
- Testing of Solar Panels and other components.
- Consultancy services in electrical and electronic fields
- Provision of training through various training programmes
- **Technology Park and Engineering Museum**

Our Service Sectors

- **Techno Marketing Department**
- **Technology Incubator**
- **Energy and Environment Management Centre**











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Ministry of Science, Technology and Research