



Seminar on

“Priorities in Science and Technology taking into account the Human, Natural and Economic Resources of Sri Lanka”

Organized by

General Research Committee, SLAAS

Date: July 24, 2009

Venue: SLAAS auditorium

Program

- 3.00 pm Welcome - Prof Preethi Randeniya, Chairperson/ GRC
- 3.10 pm Introduction: A few examples from Asia of matching resources, generic technologies and economies -*Dr. Susantha Goonatilake*
- 3.25 pm Local Economic Factors as an Input as Well as an Output for Science and Technology - *Dr. H.N. Thenuwara, Assistant Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka*
- 3.45 pm Available Human Resources in the different scientific and technological subfields - *Dr Seetha Wickramasingha, National Science Foundation*
- 4.05 pm Natural Resources and Other Physical Givens: Biological resources - *Prof S W Kotagama, Professor of Environment Science, University of Colombo*
- 4.25 pm Natural Resources and Other Physical Givens: Physical Resources - *Dr Nalin Perera, Geological Survey & Mines Bureau of Sri Lanka*
- 4.45 pm Participatory discussion on "Optimising for Sri Lanka : Generic Technologies, Human, Natural and Economic Resources "
- 5.30 pm Concluding remarks
- 5.40 pm. Vote of thanks – Prof Thusitha Abeytunge, Secretary / GRC

SLAAS/ GRC Seminar Friday 24th July 2009

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Preamble

The direction a country's science and technology takes occurs either consciously or unconsciously, either planned or unplanned, either in the private or state sector depends on the interplay of a variety of factors. Among these key factors could be listed the following:

The types of scientific sub-fields and changes in generic technologies that are available from which a country could pick and choose, the human resources at hand in the form of manpower available in the different scientific and technological fields including in emerging sub-fields, the various economic inputs which by going into particular branches of science and technology gives rise to particular economic and social developments, its converse where developments in the economy and society both locally and globally result in demands for particular science and technology activities, the various physical resources available in the country or that could be easily imported such as the available biological diversity, geological resources, marine resources which could give a locational and comparative advantage for particular scientific and technological pursuits.

Among the SLAAS membership are personnel who can identify some, if not most of the above features. The seminar/workshop that is being organised by the GRC is firstly to introduce some of these various facets. The aim is that after the sensitisation of these introductory presentations SLAAS members present could cross fertilise among themselves and collectively come to some understanding of the direction science and technology in Sri Lanka could possibly take.

This seminar is a follow-up to a similar GRC seminar held in the 1980s as well as to the many open discussions that the SLAAS had on science policy during the science policy efforts under the leadership of the late Prof Ponnampereuma.