



*The Story of
The Colombo Plan*

*Resource Book
2012*



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FOREWORD

The Colombo Plan completes 61 years of development cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region on 1 July 2012. In January 1950, Foreign Ministers of seven Commonwealth countries, Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom met in Colombo, Sri Lanka to form an organisation for socio-economic development of the newly independent less developed countries. The mechanism for socio-economic cooperation was advanced in Sydney, Australia and on 1 July 1951 formulated in London, United Kingdom. It is called “The Colombo Plan” as the idea originated in Colombo. Today, its membership has expanded to include 27 countries.

From the beginning, the Colombo Plan has cooperated to assist in the development of countries in the Asia Pacific Region. In the early years its achievements were tangible such as building of roads, bridges, dams, airports, hospitals and educational institutions. Since 1995, its objective is human resource capacity building and has collaborated to provide technical training for people in the developing countries. This book is a tribute to the achievements of the Colombo Plan and contains an updated overview of its activities. I am pleased to present this book to the member countries so that it could be used as a resource book by students, teachers, researchers and others as a backgrounder to know more about the Colombo Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Maniku', written over a horizontal line.

Adam Maniku
Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

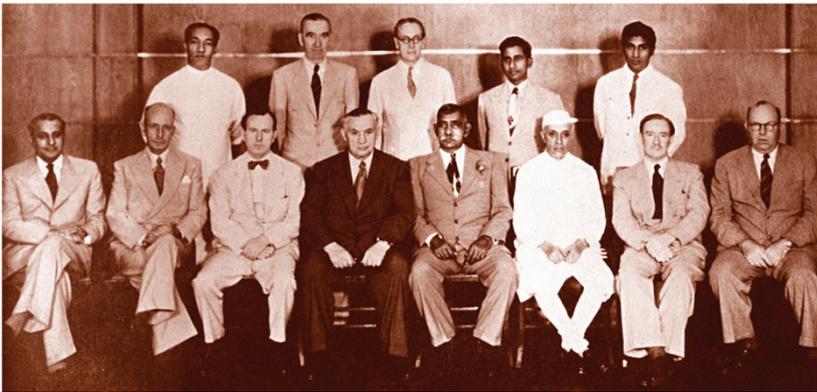
On 1 July 2012, the Colombo Plan achieved 61 years of providing service through constructive human resource development efforts for the furtherance of economic and social development of the Asia and Pacific. It was instituted as a regional intergovernmental organisation based on the partnership concept of self-help and mutual help for development.

Since it was established in 1951 by a group of seven Commonwealth nations, Australia, Britain, Canada, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), India, New Zealand and Pakistan, it has grown into an international organisation of 27 member countries, including non-Commonwealth countries. All donor countries played a crucial role in the Colombo Plan, allocating vast sums of money, manpower and equipment for the development of the lesser developed member countries. The Colombo Plan recognised the need for physical capital to provide the leverage for growth, with emphasis on the need to raise the skills level in order to assimilate and utilise the physical capital efficiently. This book presents the Colombo Plan's contributions over the 61 years in terms of the changes in its development over the years.

1951-1960

FROM VISION TO REALITY, 1951-1960

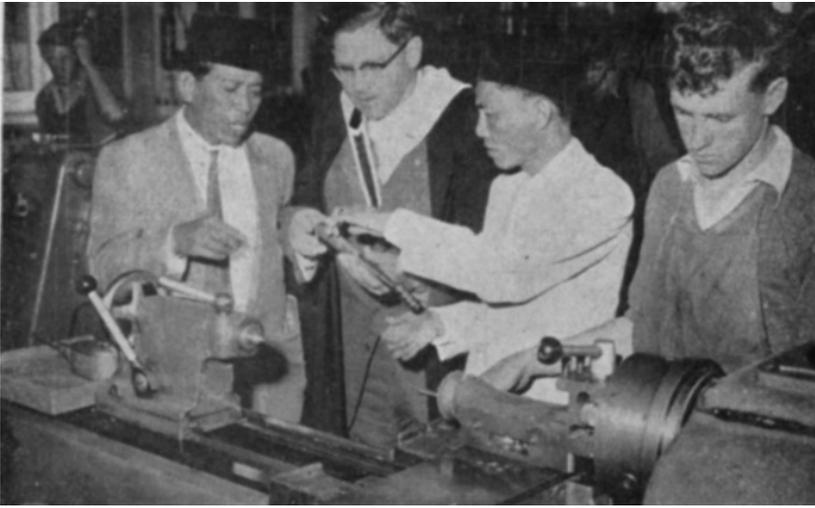
Although the Colombo Plan started as a Commonwealth initiative, it was intended from the start to be a programme for the whole South and Southeast Asian region based on the theory that the poverty of one depresses all.



Founding fathers in 1950

On 1 July 1951, a great idea was translated into reality. The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia was born as a cooperative venture for the economic and social advancement of the peoples of South and Southeast Asia. The idea has been conceived 18 months earlier at the Commonwealth Conference on Foreign Affairs held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in January 1950. It was a meeting of leading statesmen: Sir Percy Spender, Minister for External Affairs, Australia, Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary, Britain, Lester Pearson, Minister for External Affairs, Canada, Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, India, Fredrick Doidge,

Minister for External Affairs, New Zealand, Ghulam Mohammed, Minister of Finance, Pakistan D S Senanayake, Prime Minister of Ceylon and J R Jayawardena, then Finance Minister and later President of Sri Lanka.



The Indonesian education mission who made an observation tour of New Zealand education methods, at the Engineering department of Wellington technical college

Its establishment provided a framework for International cooperation to support South and South-East Asian countries in their development effort. Economic and social changes occurred rapidly in this region in the past twenty five years than perhaps in as many centuries. Political independence spurred by economic aspirations resulted in a crisis of rising expectations. By putting before the people the ideal of “Planning Prosperity together”, the Colombo Plan helped to bring development to its member countries. This was described as a “great human adventure” and a unique experiment in international co-operative effort for development.

Assistance under the Plan took two principal forms:

- a. The Capital Development Programme/Capital Aid in the form of grants and loans for national development programmes and projects in agriculture, power, infrastructure, communication as well as equipment and production inputs including food grains, fertilizers, machinery, farm and laboratory equipment, transport vehicles, consumer goods, etc
- b. Technical Cooperation in the form of services of experts and technicians, scholarships for study abroad or within the region in advanced technology in various fields, supply of special equipment for training and research, and institutional building of educational and training facilities.



Fuel preparation plant at Mae Moh lignite mine, Thailand.



The first Colombo Plan trainees were these six dental nurses from Ceylon, who went to New Zealand for training in March 1951. They are shown here after receiving their diplomas.

The Colombo Plan assistance from developed countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and UK to developing countries comprised both transfer of physical capital and technology as well as a strong component of skills development. Hence, while infrastructure of airports, roads, railways, dams, power plants, hospitals, fertilizer plants, cement factories, universities, and steel mills were constructed in member countries through Colombo Plan assistance, a large number of people were simultaneously trained to manage such infrastructure in their home countries.



The Colombo Plan Monument.

At the first International Trade Exhibition held in Colombo in February 1952, the Colombo Plan Monument was erected at the Dharmapala Mawartha - FR Senanayake roundabout to commemorate this event. 16 member countries represented by their national flags (*Following Page*) participated and built national pavilions to showcase their countries and their products. In terms of significance, this event was remarkable as the forerunner of the later day World Expo. The inscription

on the monument was written in nine languages, Sinhala, Tamil, English, Hindi, Nastaliq (modified Arabic language), Bahasa Indonesia, Thai, Vietnamese and Pali. In addition, the open air theatre in the then Victoria Park, now Viharamahadevi Park, was also built for this occasion.



Australia



United Kingdom



Canada



Sri Lanka



India



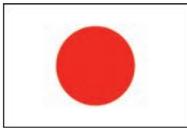
New Zealand



Pakistan



Lao PDR



Japan



Indonesia



Cambodia



Maldives



Myanmar



Nepal



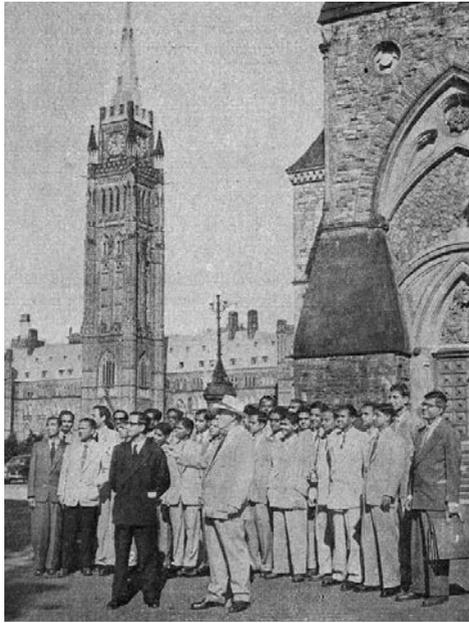
Philippines



Thailand

BEGINNING OF A GREAT HUMAN ADVENTURE, 1951-1960

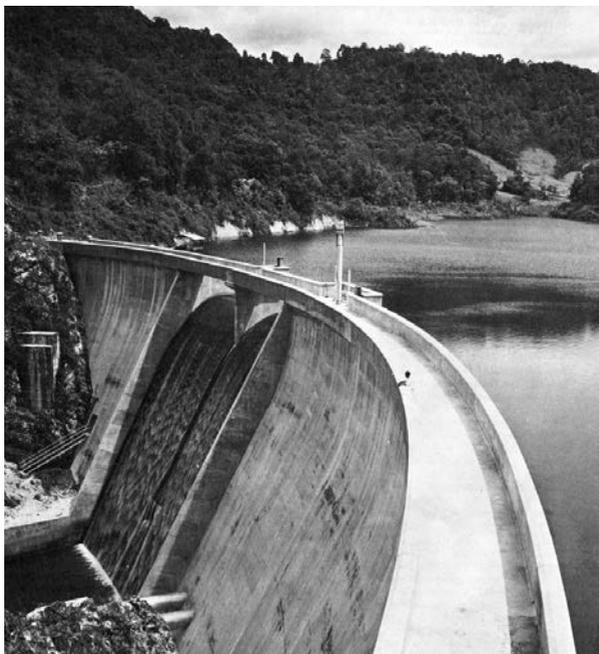
At the launch of the Colombo Plan in 1950, four countries came toward as principal donors: Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. By the time the Colombo Plan actually began its aid programme in 1951, the United States joined their fold as its first non-Commonwealth donor member. Other subsequent principal donor, Japan was invited to join the CP on 6 October 1954. It was noted that the Colombo Plan was Japan's first Official Development Assistance (ODA) window.



Indian technicians studying Canada's Atomic Energy development at Chalk river, during a visit to Parliament Hill (background Parliament Building). They will help to operate the Canada-India Atomic Reactor not being built at Trombay, India.

Capital Aid projects were, of course, the bigger and more spectacular part of its work, and indeed no less than an estimated £2,250 million (US\$6.3 billion) had been contributed by all the donor countries in the first decade.

In the first ten years of technical assistance programme under the Plan (which began in July of 1950, a year earlier than the capital aid part of its work), a total of almost 21,000 Asian technicians were trained free-of-charge outside their home country by the Colombo Plan, including an estimated 10,900 by the USA at a cost of around US\$13 million and equipment, again including the USA, was furnished to the extent of US\$10 million.



Kiang Gates Dam in Malaysia.

1961-1970

MAKING AN INDELIBLE IMPACT IN THE REGION, 1961-1970

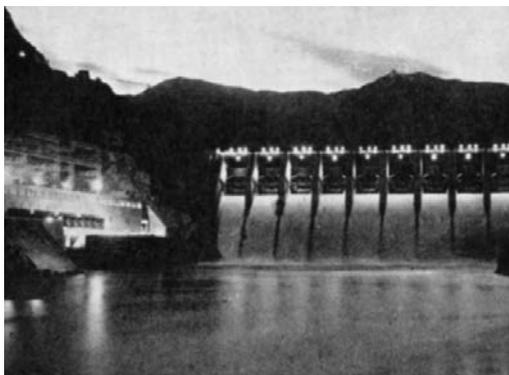
The total expenditure on technical assistance until second decade (1971) is to US\$1,523.6 million. Only 10 per cent of this expenditure was incurred during the first ten years, while 34 percent was incurred during the next five years and 56 per cent during the last five years of the second decade, with a peak of US\$200 million in 1968.

The year 1970 marked the completion of 20 years of technical cooperation under the Colombo Plan. By means of technical assistance in a wide variety of fields, developed countries have shared the benefits of spectacular advances in science and technology with the developing countries and strengthened immeasurably the human infrastructure so vital for accelerated economic and social development of the region.



At the paddy research station in Malacca, students select better strains of paddy.

The need to put in place adequate and trained human resources in order to manage the development in the respective developing member countries was clearly evident with the construction and operation of many projects by the Colombo Plan. From 1951 to 1971, 88 irrigation projects were carried out either with full Colombo Plan support or through multilateral organisations with funds provided by the donor countries. India received the most aid for its irrigation projects. 19 projects were carried out in this highly populated country for its large tracts of arid or semi-arid land. In the desert state of Rajasthan, for example, Canada assisted in an extensive canal project estimated to cost \$261 million which provided irrigation to 3.12 million acres. In Pakistan, where 15 irrigation projects were completed, hundreds of thousands of acres of barren land were transformed into fertile pastures. The Warsak dam built largely with aid from Canada (and was Canadian's biggest Colombo Plan project) was known locally as a jihad (holy war) against poverty. It contributed towards the production of 70,000 tons of cash crops annually, increasing Pakistan's national income by about US\$3.3 million each year.



Warsak, the giant multi-purpose projects assisted by Canada, seen at night in the magnificent setting among the hills of North-West of Pakistan.



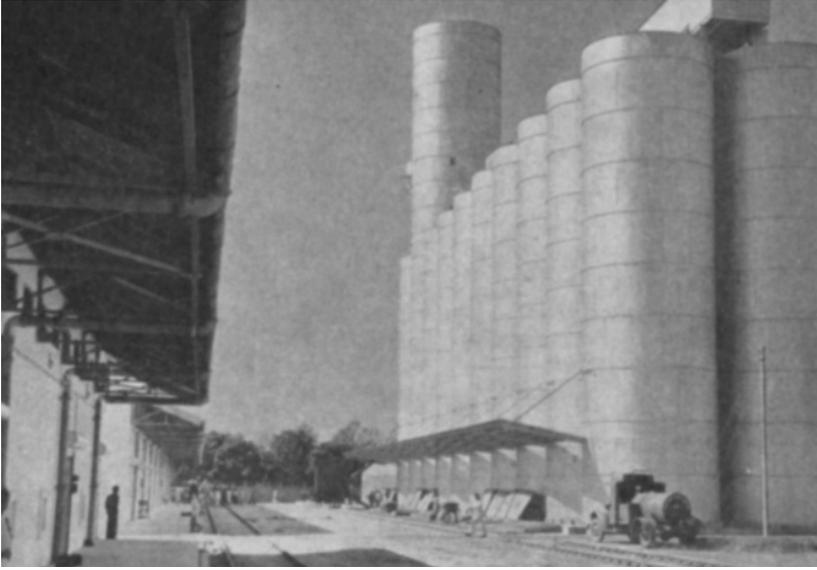
A section of the Durgapur steel works plant site, which has been assisted by the United Kingdom.

Since the inception of the Plan, US\$273.5 million, i.e. 18 per cent of the total expenditure, had been spent financing 72,577 trainees and students covering practically every field of social and economic activity. Gaps in technical expertise in the region were filled by the services of 14,102 technical experts and advisors, and gradually by the returning Colombo Plan scholars.

One of the many Colombo plan scholars , Dr. Francis S.P Ng, a forest botanist from the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia was quoted as saying, “All through the 1960s, the returning Colombo Plan scholars took over professional positions from departing British officers in the technical departments dealing with public works, agriculture, forestry, utilities and so on. In my opinion, the Colombo Plan kept Malaysia running through the critical post-independence decades of the 1960s and 1970s.” This quote could easily apply to all member countries which were the recipients of the more than 300,000 scholarships from the Colombo Plan between 1951 and 1989.

The United Kingdom's total contribution to the Colombo Plan countries up to 1969 amounted to USD1.77 billion, while the United States was by far the biggest donor, channelling no less than USD25.1 billion in bilateral loans, grants and technical assistance within the same time frame.

In the first two decades of the Colombo Plan, 90 per cent of Australia's bilateral aid was directed to the Colombo Plan member countries. Up to June 1970, Australia's expenditure in South and South-East Asia had exceeded A\$300 million. This was in addition to the tens of thousands of full scholarships offered to Asian students.



The grain silo-cum-elevator at Hapur in India, which has been built with United States assistance under the Colombo Plan.

The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, noted on the Colombo Plan's 20th anniversary that "more than a billion dollars have so far been made available to realize the full human potential of Asia". New Zealand being the smallest of all donor countries, concentrated its efforts mainly on technical assistance, in the construction of dams, and improving dairy and agricultural methods, as well as in welcoming Asian scholars into its universities. It did also contribute to some large projects, most notably of which was the All-India Medical Research Institute (AIMRI) in Delhi.

Although most training was provided by the donor countries, some of the developing countries in South and South East Asia also shared their expertise and know-how with their neighbours, thus, putting

into practice the earliest South-South cooperation. India, the largest and probably the most developed country within this grouping, shared its technical knowledge with trainees from the rest of the region from the beginning, as did also Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Eventually, Burma (Myanmar), Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand also joined the ranks of trainers, especially in technical areas.

To better coordinate the efforts of all these countries, the Intra-Regional Training Programme came into operation in 1961, under which the Colombo Plan organised and conducted regional colloquia and national seminars.



The Balu Chaung hydro-electric project in Burma under construction. Completed in April 1960, resulting in an 80 per cent increase in Burma's installed plant capacity.



The Connaught bridge power station in Malaysia.

The development of the training potential of the region under the Intra-Regional Training Programme was a crystallisation of the Colombo Plan's central theme of mutual co-operation. From this scheme, 6,185 training and student places were provided in the region. The countries which have made the best use of regional training facilities were Nepal (2,516), Malaysia (680), Thailand (677) and Sri Lanka (644).



The other subsequent principal donor, the Republic of Korea was invited to join the Colombo Plan in 1962, together with Bhutan, Afghanistan, Maldives, Iran and Singapore.

The global landscape, thus, was permanently changed, and the Colombo Plan could be said to have been an important catalyst in creating this change.



The First International Airport at Paya Lebar, Singapore.

1971-1980

RESHAPING HUMAN CAPITAL FORMATION, 1971-1980

At the 23rd Consultative Committee Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand in 1973, the Colombo Plan took all important and strategic steps towards making itself even more relevant. In response to the increasing problem of drug abuse, a comprehensive programme that addressed this menace was established. The Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) was thus established following a proposal by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to address the growing drug menace, involving both drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Colombo Plan readily embraced this development, given that two of the world's three largest sources of drugs were in Asia: the Golden Triangle, covering Myanmar, Thailand and Lao PDR and the Golden Crescent, covering Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

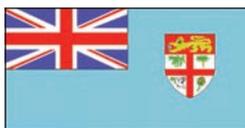


The Consultative Committee Meeting held in Wellington in 1973. Extreme left was the then Secretary-General Mr. M. P. Chapman, (Deputy Director of the External Aid Division, New Zealand).

1973 was also the year in which the Colombo Plan Staff College for Technical Education (CPSC) was established in Singapore. It had a clear mandate to address the quality and standards of technical education by focusing on “training of trainers” type programmes for teachers, educators and facilitators. The CPSC provides the setting for the sharing of success stories which offers opportunities for new educational models to be developed. It began operations in January 1975 and conducted 45 workshops in addition to other training-related activities. It moved in February 1987 to Manila, the Philippines, where it continues to be based.



Bangladesh



Fiji



Papua New Guinea

In December 1977, a new Constitution was adopted, and the official name of the organisation was changed to “The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific” to reflect the expanded composition of its enhanced membership and the scope of its activities. By this time, there were 24 members including Bangladesh, Fiji and Papua New Guinea which joined the Colombo Plan in the third decade.

1981-1990

DISENCHANTMENT AND RATIONALISATION. 1981-1990

Over the Years, while adhering to the concept of human resource development and South-South cooperation in addressing issues of economic and social development, the programme content of the Colombo Plan had to change to take into account the changing needs of member countries. In the early years, the training programmes were more of a long-term nature while recent programmes have been focusing on providing advance skills and experience sharing aimed at arriving at the best practices in different fields of economic and social activities as a means of good policy making and governance.



Former Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardane at Colombo Plan Seminar on Human Resources Development for Small Scale Enterprise, Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1984.

By the 1980s, several South and South East Asian member countries had progressed to such an extent that they had fast developing economies. By this time also, the global international cooperation system had matured. The United Nations had established more specialised organizations which mirrored the work of the Colombo Plan and the Colombo Plan donor member countries were beginning to place emphasis on their own bilateral technical cooperation programmes. At the same time, other aid agencies were also set up, many emulating the principles or ideals of the Colombo Plan. The Colombo Plan's relevance as a multilateral aid agency was thus severely challenged. Reflecting these changing times, by 1989, the scholarship programme came to a slow and grinding end. Donor countries felt, perhaps justifiably, that recipient countries no longer needed such intense and committed aid.

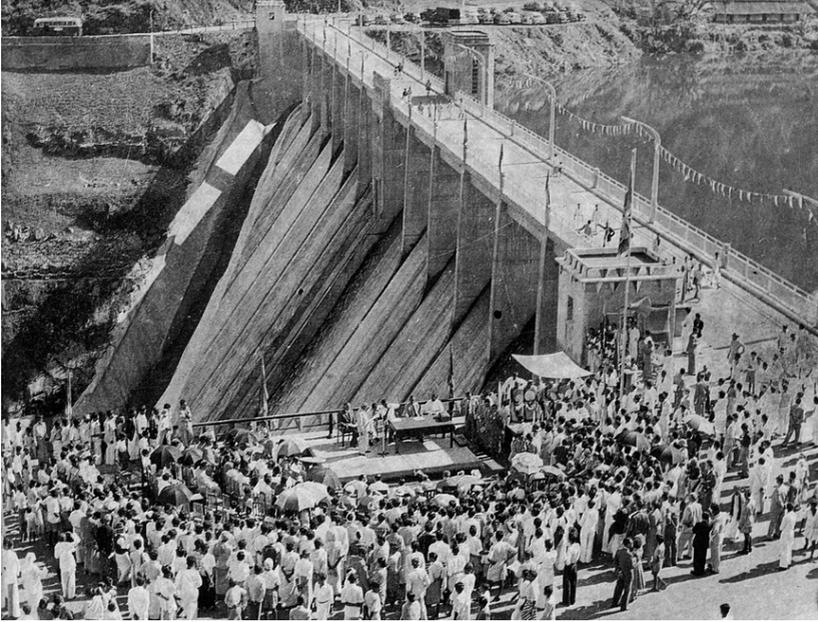
Financial assistance received by the Colombo Plan decreased dramatically in the late of 1980 and early 1990s. Countries increasingly shifted towards engagement in bilateral relationships. Donors and beneficiaries felt more in control in mutually exclusive relationships. Specialised global aid agencies that came into existence also undermined the flow of funding to the Colombo Plan.

Up to the end of 1989, when the last batch of scholars returned to their home countries, the Colombo Plan had funded more than 465,781 training programmes and scholarships. By 1989, there had been 2,271 expert exchanges and 33,371 trainee exchanges among the developing member countries along the lines of South-South cooperation. From 1951-1989, the total number of beneficiaries of the Colombo Plan Scholarships was 300,000 participants.

Some of the multi-purpose river basin development projects under the Colombo Plan continued to be supported by multilateral donors right up until the 1980s and 1990s for example, Sri Lanka's Mahaweli Development Project. The Mahaweli Basin is the country's largest river basin, spanning more than 10,000 square km or one sixth of Sri Lanka. It was developed to provide irrigation and hydropower for about 2.8 million people living in the area. The United Kingdom supported a large part of this project, the first component of the long-term Mahaweli Development Project to be taken up for construction under an accelerated programme.



Three Indonesian graduates who proceeded to Australia in 1952 for a seminar in Librarianship.



The Castlereagh Dam of the Aberdeen Laxapana hydroelectric system in Sri Lanka added another 25,000 KW of power.

An important prerequisite for the operation of such irrigation and power supply dams was the availability of skilled manpower. After the construction of the Gal Oya dam by the Colombo Plan, with Canadian aid, the Hardy Technical Institute was established in Ampara in 1956. Professor Alan Hardy served as the founding Director and diligently served the Institute until his death in 1963. It was in honour of his contributions that the Institute was named after him. The Institute trained many Sri Lankans who helped to fill the vacancies for the operation of the Gal Oya dam and other projects. The Institute also trained many international trainees whose intake was subsequently halted in 1966, following a decision by the Government.

The 1980s and 1990s was a period of disenchantment among some member countries and a time of rationalisation for other members within the economic and social caucus. Member countries began to review their role and function within the Colombo Plan, with a view of assessing their efficiency. In 1991, two founder member countries, Canada and the United Kingdom decided to withdraw from the Colombo Plan.



Hon. Bill Hayden, then Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, officially opens the 31st meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in Sydney in 1986.

1991-2000

TRANSFORMATION AND REVITALISATION, 1991-2000

The drastic decrease in funding and the changing world order necessitated much soul searching by member countries. While a few member countries thought that the Colombo Plan had served its purpose, others were of the view that there was still a role for the Colombo Plan.



Opening Ceremony of the 40th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan, 1991.

In 1994, the Colombo Plan appointed an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to act as its think-tank to review the organisation and make recommendations on how it could be revitalized. The group, made up of Desamanya W.M. Tilakaratna, from Sri Lanka; Hyo Seung Ahn, from Korea, Morihisa Aoki, from Japan; A V Ganesan, a UNDP nominee, Datuk Khor Eng Hee from Malaysia, and M. Siddiquer Rahman, from Bangladesh. They strategized and came up with a tacit solution.

A fresh strategy was clearly outlined in the 35- CCM in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in 1994. It recommended the Colombo Plan to focus on a few permanent and regular training programmes on subjects of

“foremost and common relevance” while retaining the emphasis for collaboration on the following areas:

1. The Drug Advisory Programme (DAP)
2. Public administration
3. Private sector development
4. South-South technical cooperation

It was articulated during these sessions of the EPG that developing countries should focus on project-based training that could address social and economic challenges within member countries through South-South cooperation.

The EPG also recommended that the Colombo Plan Bureau be restructured as the Colombo Plan Secretariat. Another recommendation was that the post of Director be replaced by that of a Secretary-General, who could be appointed from any member country and not just from one of the donor countries.

These recommendations were accepted by the CCM in Seoul in 1994, resulting in a more strategic and streamlined organization which could focus on the above mentioned programmes. In 1995, the Colombo Plan Bureau was restructured to reflect this new energized mission as the Colombo Plan Secretariat. Its first Secretary-General, Dr. Kim Hak-Su, was dispatched from Seoul, Republic of Korea, to lead the “new” Colombo Plan. The Republic of Korea also provided a pledge of US\$500,000 to the Colombo Plan Secretariat to kick-start its new mandate. Three KOICA officers were also subsequently seconded as Directors of the Private Sector Development Programme from 1995 till 2006. This restructuring gave the organisation a fresh breath of life.

In 1995, Japan supported the restructuring of the Colombo Plan by contributing towards the establishment of the Public Administration Programme (PPA) and by seconding three JICA officers to the Secretariat in Colombo as Directors of PPA until April 2004. Japan, along with the five other principal donor countries, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and the USA, played a crucial role in the Colombo Plan, allocating vast sums of money, manpower and equipment for the development of the Colombo Plan member countries.



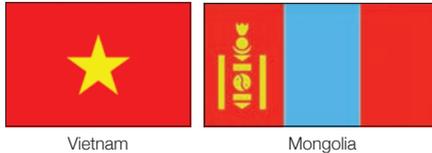
Colombo Plan Bureau director, Mr. John Ryan at the Opening ceremony of the 34th Meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee held in Yangon, Myanmar in 1992.

After the revitalisation of the Colombo Plan, India, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Pakistan, Singapore and Indonesia become the emerging donor countries. Having benefitted from the transfer of knowledge, technology and development projects that the Colombo Plan provided, they now share their technical and intellectual wealth with fellow Colombo Plan member in the true spirit of South-South cooperation.

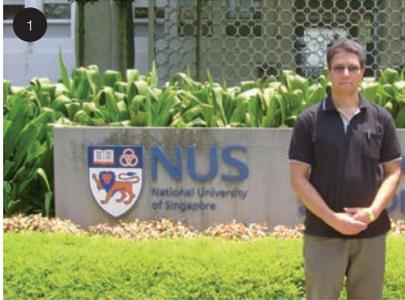
2001-2010+1

IMPARTING RELEVANT SKILLS, CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE, 2001-2010+1

The Colombo Plan continues to utilise its core competencies to uplift the development of member nations which are still challenged by poverty and inequalities. In spite of continuing support from Japan, Republic of Korea and the USA as well as the emerging donor countries, the Colombo Plan sailed into an unexpected turbulence when Cambodia withdrew in 2004 over the issue of membership arrears. However, at the same time, two new members joined the organization, Mongolia and Vietnam, bringing the membership to 25.



Continuing with its mandate, the Colombo Plan's Long-term Scholarship Programme (LTSP), which was its hallmark from its inception until 1989, was re-established in 2005 at the request of member countries. Suitable candidates from member countries are selected to pursue their Master degrees in universities in Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. To date a total of 113 scholars were awarded the LTSP. However, due to funding constraints participating member countries have to co-sponsor their candidates starting from 2011, thus creating a tripartite partnership between the Colombo Plan, hosting countries and participating countries.



- 1) Long-term scholar, National University of Singapore.
- 2) Long-term scholars, KDI School, Korea.
- 3) Participants during the Training Course on HIV/AIDS management, Malaysia.
- 4) Participants during the Training Course on Climate Change, Thailand.

The Programme for Environment was established in October 2005 for a three-year period from 2005-2007, with funding from the Royal Thai Government. The programme offered short-term training courses which covers a wide variety of subjects such as climate change, environment planning, air pollution management and industrial ecology. Subsequently, this programme was merged with PPA in 2007 which was renamed the Programme for Public Administration and Environment (PPA/E).

The Colombo Plan Secretariat became fully ICT-enabled in 2006, again with the support and assistance of the Government of

Korea which provided a generous grant through the Korean International Cooperation agency (KOICA) to upgrade the Secretariat's IT system. At the same time, the Secretariat began to place greater emphasis on the inculcation of IT knowledge through its training programmes.



- 1) Training of Trainers on Entrepreneurship Development for Women Trainers and Motivators, India.
- 2) Workshop on Promotion and Marketing of Items Produced in Rural Communities under the One-Village One-Product Movement, Asian Productivity Organisation.
- 3) Training Programme on International Trade and WTO, Republic of Korea.
- 4) Training Programme on Operational Management of Non-interest based (Sharia) Micro Finance, Bandung, Indonesia.

In 2007, the strategic vision 2025 was formulated by a survey among developing member countries. Based on the needs of member countries, and guided by the Strategic Vision 2025, the Colombo Plan expanded its programmes by more than two-and-a-half times benefiting a three-fold increase in participants. This is reflected in the steady rise in the number of participants from 603 in 2007 to 1,440 in 2008, 1,736 in

2009, 1,891 in 2010 and 1,546 in 2011. The careful participant selection process has a positive multiplier effect within the communities in which they serve and contribute. They play important roles in their communities to enable a systematic attrition of poverty and underdevelopment. From 1995 – 2011 end June, the total number of beneficiaries of the Colombo Plan Scholarship was 18,576.



Drug Advisory Programme (DAP)

The Colombo Plan Secretariat continued to focus on enhancement of human resources development of member countries through an expansion of its regional programmes, visits and dialogues that reaffirmed and strengthened ties with member countries through their national focal points.

Since its establishment in 1975, DAP has become the biggest programme of the Colombo Plan, focusing on enhancing human resources development of public sector, NGOs and civil society in member countries, particularly for those involved in drug demand reduction activities such as treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. Between 2007 and 2011, the DAP programming rapidly expanded more than six-fold in terms of funding from the USA. A field office was established in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2008, where the Colombo Plan had become the biggest stakeholder in drug demand reduction and a training arm set up at the Secretariat in 2009, funded by the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of US Department of State.

Among its current initiatives are the Afghan Initiative beginning from 2003, which forms a major part of the DAP funding and programming, Outreach-Drop-in centres (ODICs), and regional training programmes on law enforcement and drug demand reduction. The Afghan Initiative includes the operation of 23 treatment centres, Outreach/Drop-In-Centres transit shelter for abused women, the mobilization of religious leaders or mullahs in drug abuse prevention and pre-treatment, a Counter Narcotics Public Information Campaign in 26 provinces, as well as an education programme targeting 300 schools.

One of the significant achievements of the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme is the establishment of the Colombo Plan Asian Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals or ACCE on 16 February, 2009. The initiative aims towards enhancing the technical capacity of addiction treatment practitioners in the

Colombo Plan member countries and thereby addresses the increasing problem of substance abuse in the region. Substance abuse is a major problem around the world, taking a toll on global health and on social and economic functioning. The World Drug Report (2011) by the United Nations on Drugs and Crime reports that 149 to 272 million people between the ages 15 and 64 used illicit substances at least once in the year 2009. This problem has led to the increased rates of crime and violence, vulnerability to life-threatening diseases and adverse social behaviours, especially among the young population.



- 1) Mr. Tay Bian How and the ACCE officers having a meeting with the National Dangerous Drug Control Board, Sri Lanka during the launching of the "Certification of Addiction Professionals" in the country.
- 2) The ACCE Commissioners along with Mr. Tay Bian How (ACCE Director) , Dr. Sallyan Henry (Professional testing Corporation, USA) and Ms. Shirley Mikell (NAADAC, USA) .
- 3) Participants at group activity training during the "First Training of Trainers on the Certification for Addiction Professionals of Bhutan" held in Paro.
- 4) Establishment of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions in Philippines.

The overall goal of the ACCE initiative is to reduce the health, social and economic problems associated with addiction. It provides training on evidence-based treatment approaches and certification to the national level trainers and addiction treatment practitioners in the region and thereby attempts to raise the proficiency of the continuum of care provided to the substance abusers and their families. The training is based on the global curriculum which is being developed with funding from the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), US Department of State and will be used across the world. Three levels of training and credentialing (basic, clinical and advance levels) are being offered and each level consists of about 9 curricula covering key aspects of addiction treatment. The certification process also includes validation of skills, knowledge and competence through application and testing of addiction professionals.

The ACCE Commission was established on 6 June, 2012 as a policy making body relating to the credentialing programme. The Commission is represented by ten participating countries and is responsible for ensuring the high quality and standard of the initiative including implementation of training, administration of examinations and the provision of credentials.

One of the new strategic directions taken by the DAP is to start cooperation with non-member countries to enrich the programme. Beginning, in 2010, the Colombo Plan started cooperation with Turkey, a non-member, to provide regional training in the field of drug law enforcement. A training programme was also implemented for Mombassa, Kenya in 2010 using the faith-based approach for drug prevention.

Brunei Darussalam became a provisional member in November 2008 and Saudi Arabia in April 2012, demonstrating clearly that Colombo Plan's promotion of the values of inclusiveness and equal opportunity continue to attract nations which believed in a shared destiny for the Asia Pacific region. After Mongolia and Vietnam in 2004, the entry of Brunei Darussalam in 2008, demonstrated that the world is beginning to understand that multilateralism counts; that there are more than financial rewards in becoming a member of an organisation like the Colombo Plan. It reaffirms the philosophy of planning prosperity together in the Asia- Pacific, mirroring the original spirit of the Colombo Plan.



Brunei



Saudi Arabia

From its inception, the Colombo Plan has adhered to its focus on human resource development and currently actively promotes South-South cooperation in addressing issues of economic and social development of its member countries. The programme content of the Colombo Plan is regularly adjusted to take into account the needs of member countries in a fast changing world economic environment.

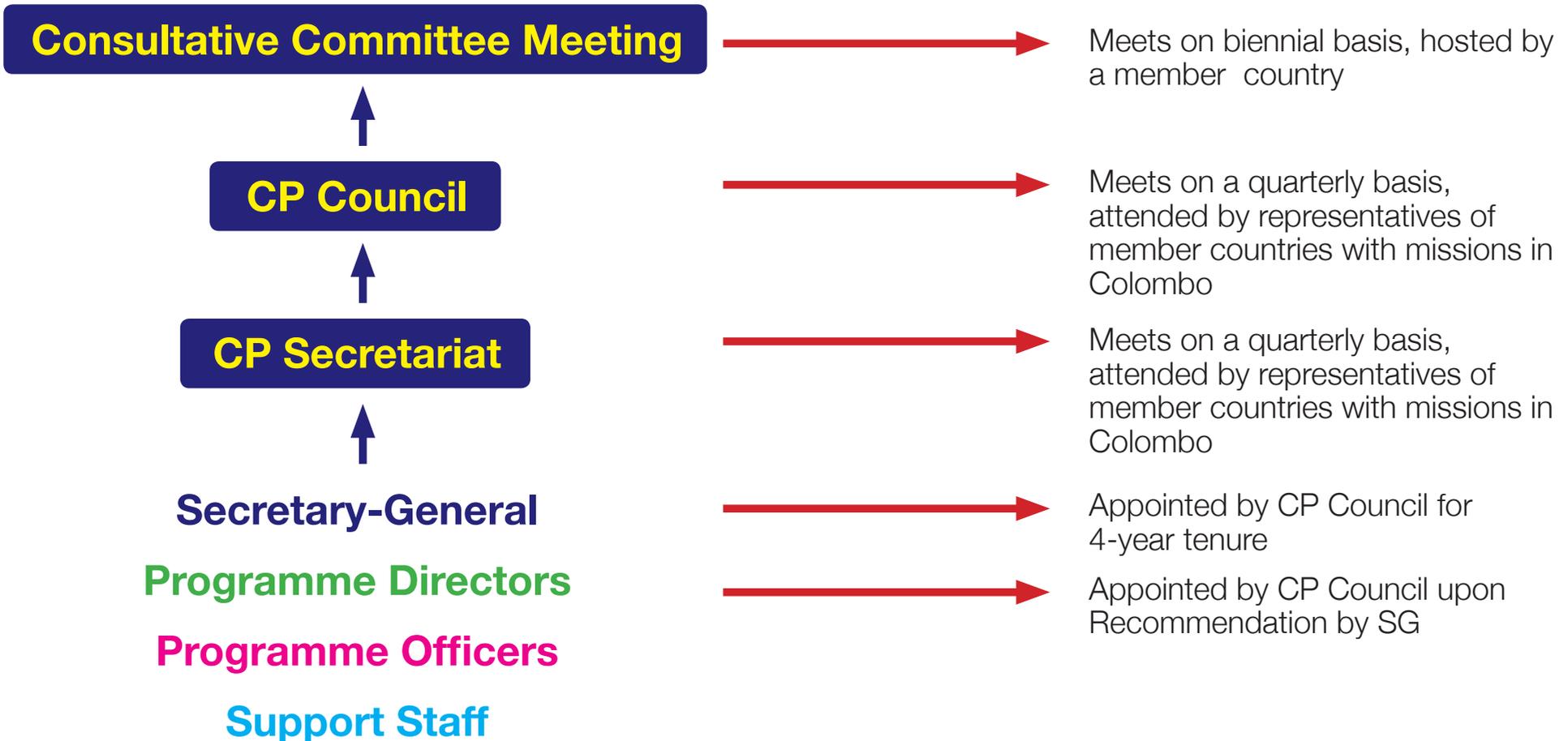
In facing the challenges of the new millennium, the Colombo Plan will continue its efforts for the benefit of member countries, guided by its Strategic Vision 2025. It will strive to remain relevant to meet the needs of member countries, and to continue to strengthen the mechanism of cooperation with national focal points. Strategic

partnerships for South-South cooperation in alignment with MDGs will be actively promoted and joint evaluation with donors will be carried out to ensure that funds are effectively utilized with maximum positive outcome. New membership will be encouraged from like-minded countries while innovative fund raising will need to be continuously pursued. From time to time, strategic directions may be sought from advisory committee such as that which set its course in 1994. To increase participation of member countries, they are encouraged to second voluntary officers to the Secretariat which will also reduce the costs to the organization. Endeavours will be made to establish a global network of the Colombo Plan alumni society through a database.

From 1 July 1951 to 1 July 2012, the Colombo Plan has played its role as a potent instrument of development and as a major catalyst of economic and social change which it will continue to do so, together with the support of all its member countries in its journey forward in 2012 and beyond.

Organisation

Structure



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The Colombo Plan

No. 31, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

Tel: +94 11 2684188, 2694192, 2694182-5

Fax: +94 11 2684386

E-mail: info@colomboplan.org

Web: www.colombo-plan.org



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