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Resilience the key to post-conflict development

By Lalin FERNANDOPULLE

The Chamber of Construction Industry (CCI) has launched a constructor capacity development program in the North and the East to improve skills of construction craftsmen in the regions, said Secretary General/CEO, CCI, Dakshitha Thalagodapitiya.

He was speaking at a meeting to launch the international conference on Building Resilience to Disasters from July 19-21 at Heritance Kandalama, Dambulla.

He said the chamber has commenced training around 10,000 construction craftsmen in both regions which need skilled workers to undertake reconstruction.

Reconstruction and rehabilitation are dire needs in the North and the East which were devastated by the conflict. Lack of skilled workers has impeded the pace of reconstruction in the North and the East.



Thalagodapitiya said that capacity development of regional construction industries is essential to ensure that the benefits of reconstruction trickles down to the people.

"Resilience is the key to reconstruction and rehabilitation. The chamber has played a vital role in reconstruction efforts of the government," he said.

The conference will focus on building social resilience to natural and human induced disasters. Around 65 international delegates and 45 Sri Lankan academics, practitioners, professional and policy makers are expected at the conference. Prof. Dilanthi Ameratunga of the University of Salford, UK said that the conference will be centred on interdisciplinary approaches on disaster risk reduction and development of sustainable communities and cities.

"Building resilience will help mitigate the impact of man-made and natural disasters and help save the colossal waste on reconstruction", she said.

Sri Lanka was selected as the venue to host the event due to the vast opportunities for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the post-conflict and post tsunami era. The previous conference was held in Sri Lanka in 2008 on disaster mitigation. The next conference will be held in Japan next year.

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