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Training for global agreements

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CT By Ampara Correspondent
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By Our Ampara Correspondent

A major training and round-table event on the local implementation of global agreements on disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development was held in Trincomalee recently.

The day-long event jointly organized by the Global Disaster Resilience Centre (GDRC) from the University of Huddersfield in the United Kingdom and the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities was inaugurated by the Provincial Minister Ariyawathie Galappatti and was attended by Chief Secretary D.M. Sarath Abayagunawardana and local government officials and other key stakeholders from the Eastern Province.

Last year was a pivotal moment, as most of the world's nations came together to sign the landmark agreements that tackle major societal challenges. For these new global agreements on disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework), climate change (COP21) and sustainable development (Sustainable Development Goals) to succeed, local government and other key stakeholders must be empowered to act to accelerate national government's efforts in building more sustainable, disaster resilient communities.

Professors Dilanthi Amaratunga and Richard Haigh from GDRC travelled to Trincomalee to conduct the training and round-table event in conjunction with Hemanthi Goonasekera, the National Coordinator and Chief Executive Officer from the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities. The event is part of their ongoing work in Sri Lanka to reduce disaster risk.

Last year, Sri Lanka was one of 187 signatories to the Sendai Framework, a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. The Framework seeks to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for effective response and build back better in recovery, and thus strengthen resilience.

Sri Lanka was also among over 150 Heads of State and Government that attended the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York from 25-27 September 2015 for the adoption of an ambitious, bold and universal sustainable development agenda that seeks to end poverty and promote prosperity by 2030, while addressing the environment. The summit outcome document, entitled "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," was agreed on by the 193-member states of the United Nations, and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Building on the success and momentum of the MDGs, the new global goals will cover more ground with ambitions to address inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice.

In April this year, Sri Lanka was also a signatory to the Paris Climate Change Agreement, a bridge between today's policies and climate-neutrality before the end of the century. The agreement has established a long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above per-industrial levels. The agreement recognizes the role of non-party stakeholders in addressing climate change, including cities, other sub national authorities, civil society, the private sector and others. They are invited to scale up their efforts and support actions to reduce emissions, build resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change, and uphold and promote regional and international cooperation.



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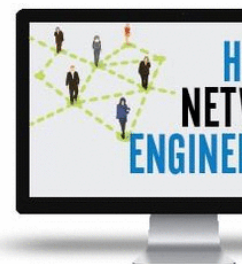
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