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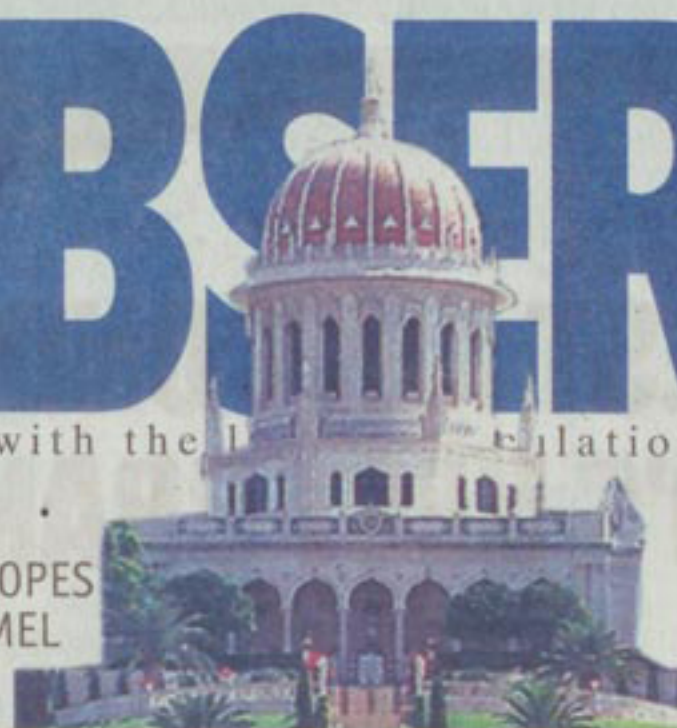
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■ With support from UN-Habitat

# Lanka goes for new climate change policy

by Uditha Kumarasinghe

The Environment Ministry has taken steps to formulate a National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) with support from the UN-Habitat.

A team of consultants has been selected and agreements have been signed to formulate the NCCP. The NCCP framework was prepared and finalised following several meetings with

Ministry officials and other stakeholders, a Ministry spokesman told the *Sunday Observer*.

He said that climate change is a complex challenge. The absence of a national policy on climate change has become a major obstacle in the country in implementing activities related to climate change in Sri Lanka.

One of the main objectives of the Climate Change

Secretariat is to facilitate climate change related research and distribution of research results to trigger policy reforms and actions, he said. According to a spokesman four research studies were identified by 19 research proposals submitted to the Climate Change Secretariat. They were studies on carbon sequestration by coconut plantations in Sri Lanka, establishing the solar radiation potential in



regions where tea processing factories are located, investigation on climate change trends in different

Agro-Ecological Regions of Sri Lanka and mapping and establishing an inventory within the vulnerable areas of the one metre sea level rise along the Western coast from the Kelani River to Negombo.

Of these the first, second and third studies have already been completed and the fourth is in progress, he said.

Meanwhile, the Environment Ministers of all eight

nations of SAARC have adopted a three-year Action Plan on Climate Change.

This plan was adopted at the SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change, which was held in Dhaka from July 1-2, 2008.

The action plan, covering 2009-2011 focuses on seven thematic areas-from adaptation of climate change to the regional stance for international negotiations, he said.

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**New Air Force Commander**



- Air Vice Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama will assume duties as the 13th Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) tomorrow.
- Air Vice Marshal Abeywickrama is the current Deputy Chief of Staff and Director Logistics at the SLAF. In recognition of his distinguished service career he was awarded the *Uttama Seva Padakkama*. He has been decorated with the *Rana Wickrama Padakkama* for bravery. Air Vice Marshal Abeywickrama also holds an M.Sc in Management and M.A. (London).
- Education: Royal College, Colombo.

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## Lanka goes...

Continued from page 1 due to climate change, the spokesman said.

He said the action plan has emphasised policies and action for climate change mitigation, technology transfer, financing and investment mechanism, education, training and awareness, monitoring, assessment and management of impact risks

The Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval to implement national obligations under the SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change in collaboration with the relevant line Ministries and other agencies, the spokesman said.