



NBRO in a Joint Collaboration with Vanderbilt Institute for Energy and Environment (VIEE) on a Research Study on Climate Change Adaptation of Human Settlements

NBRO has initiated a joint collaboration with the Vanderbilt Institute for Energy and Environment (VIEE) which is an affiliated institute of the Vanderbilt University USA on a research study on climate change adaptation of human settlements. Main reason for the collaboration is to share the knowledge and resources in two different scenarios. Human Settlements Division (HSD) of NBRO is one of the unique technical divisions having the capacity for handling human settlement planning related research in the country. Also, the research capacities of the Building Materials, Landslide Services and Studies, Environmental, Structural Engineering & Project Management and Geotechnical Engineering divisions will be an added strength in enhancing this multidisciplinary research study. This is one good example of having multidisciplinary capacities in one agency especially for research work required by interdisciplinary studies such as human settlements adaptation to climate change.

Main focus of the study will be on 'Identification of the impacts to human settlements of climate change and establishing the possible adaptation methods'. The project will focus on the Mahawelli catchment as the study area' since it is one river that runs through both the dry zone and wet zone and consist of different types of settlements like urban, rural, new, old etc. Therefore, the study will be interesting and well represented.



NBRO will be collaborating number of local partners in conducting the study out of which some partners have collaborated with NBRO previously and others are new partners. Former



NBRO partners will be University of Moratuwa, ADPC, University of Colombo, Department of Meteorology, Practical Action, etc and new partners will be Open University of Sri Lanka, Mahawelli Authority and Ministry of Environment.

As the first phase of the study VIEE study team comprising Prof..... visited Sri Lanka during the period from 9th June 2010 to 17th June 2010. A meeting of stakeholders was held at the NBRO auditorium on the 10th June 2010 to discuss the proposal and all the participants agreed that this study is one of the most needed studies in current context. It was decided to focus on three main activities in the forthcoming two years.