



Office of the General Counsel

28 May 2018

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the first Train-the-Trainers (TTT) program for Sri Lanka and South Indian environmental champions.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Academy of Environmental Law, the Open University of Sri Lanka and GD Goenka University of India, are privileged to bring you all together for these five days of learning, knowledge sharing, and network building.

This is our first TTT program in South Asia, one of ADB's five core geographic areas of operation. Whilst South Asia comprises only six of our 48 developing member countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka - this region, represents a significant part of ADB's investment portfolio which we recognize must be anchored on sustainable development as future growth depends on it.

Undoubtedly, South Asia's unprecedented economic growth has been remarkable, but has all-too-often been at the expense of the environment, public health, and human welfare. This has resulted in the loss of irreplaceable natural capital including forests, rivers, arable land, and precious biodiversity, upon which countless lives and livelihoods depend. For billions of people in South Asia, water scarcity, drought, floods, air pollution, food and energy insecurity, and vulnerability to climate change impacts have become a way of life.

It is opportune to bring participants from both your countries together this week because environmental and climate issues are not confined to political and economic boundaries. They are most often transboundary, extending across countries and regions, and ultimately the world.

For example, the Himalayas, which extend across India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan, is one of the most biologically diverse places on earth. Seven main rivers including the Brahmaputra and the Ganges are fed by the Eastern Himalayas and provide freshwater to more than a billion people in the region. Climate change is accelerating the melting of the Himalayan glaciers and this will affect freshwater supplies and the increase of flooding and landslides. Recent studies estimate that up to 95% of the world's river-based ocean plastic pollution comes from only 10 rivers, eight of which are in Asia, including the Ganges. This is endangering food and water security and human health across the globe.

We believe collaboration within and across your countries and the entire Asia-Pacific is therefore critical to finding solutions for the interconnected environmental and climate challenges we face. Conserving both your countries' and the region's natural capital will depend on addressing countervailing incentives for environmental degradation, and ensuring that sound environmental policies, laws, and regulations are adopted and enforced effectively.

Environmental law academics and practitioners are critical to helping both India and Sri Lanka adhere to international environmental obligations and implement, or develop, domestic policies for natural resource conservation.

Each of you serve as critical resources to government, the judiciary, businesses, and NGO's and are responsible for the future pipeline of environmental and climate change law practitioners, civil servants, policy makers, and judges who will influence sustainability outcomes in your countries and across the globe.

We thank you for taking the time to participate in this important program, and welcome you to our growing network of 270 environmental law champions. We hope you will return to your institutions inspired, energized, and committed to work together to help ensure sustainable development happens in your countries, South Asia, and the rest of Asia-Pacific region.



Christopher H. Stephens
General Counsel



3 May 2018

Welcome Message from the Chair of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law

On behalf of the Governing Board of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law (IUCN Academy), I would like to extend to you our warmest welcome to the in-country “Training-the-Trainers” (TTT) Program to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, hosted by the Open University of Sri Lanka from May 28th to June 1st 2018. It is especially exciting to welcome participants to this program from both Sri Lanka and India.

As part of an ambitious vision to encourage academic institutions throughout Asia to include the study of environmental law as a core subject, the IUCN Academy began the development of a TTT course about 10 years ago. With the generous support of the Asian Development Bank, the IUCN Academy was able to conduct two very successful TTT Programs in Manila during 2015 for some 60 scholars from 14 Asian countries. These two Manila courses paved the way for the ADB and the IUCN Academy to collaborate further on capacity building of legal scholars in the teaching of environmental law within Asia by delivering four in-country TTT programs during 2016 (in Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and China).

We are pleased that ADB has continued to support this project during 2017-18 with the delivery of three more in-country programs (in Thailand, Cambodia (for Laos also) and Myanmar) and now for this program in Sri Lanka. We are delighted to be conducting this next in-country TTT program in Colombo, making it the eight in-country TTT program to be delivered thus far.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the trainers, both local and international, who have dedicated their time to develop and participate in the Sri Lanka TTT Program. Equally, we would like to thank all the participants for your interest in being trained to teach the subject of environmental law. We hope that this is only the beginning of your contribution to making environmental law an important subject in your universities for your students, as well as an important area for your future legal research.

Professor Elizabeth Kirk,
Chair of the Governing Board,
IUCN Academy of Environmental Law

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Post Office Box 21
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2nd May 2018.

Dear participants,

On behalf of the Department of Legal Studies of the Open University of Sri Lanka I warmly welcome you all to this training programme in teaching environmental law at university level. I particularly welcome our participants from India and I hope that you will take this opportunity to enjoy our beautiful country and its hospitality.

The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) is one of the 15 national universities in the country but is unique in that it is the only one to offer programs of study through the distance mode of learning. The OUSL mission is based on the principle of life long learning and of offering second opportunities to those who were unable to pursue their education earlier in their lives. It offers programmes of study from Certificate, Diploma, Degree and Postgraduate degree up to PhD level, and it is also the only university that caters primarily to adult, working students. It is also one of the few such universities to offer a law degree, and this degree is one of its most sought after programmes.

The OUSL has been in the forefront of teaching environmental law in Sri Lanka and it was first offered as a subject in the LL.B programme in the 1990s. Environmental law is also taught in other programmes such as the inter-disciplinary M.Sc in Environmental Sciences offered by the Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, and in some diploma programmes.

Both the countries represented by the participants here today share common problems of environmental degradation, poverty and development. Law plays a critical role in regulating and resolving these issues, and training lawyers to understand and tackle them is a challenging task. In order to do so, we ourselves must be innovative and pragmatic in designing our curriculum and teaching methodology and must keep pace with the challenges that increasingly arise.

This Train the Trainers programme is a part of the “ADB’s Regional Capacity Development Teaching Assistance - Strengthening Capacity for Environmental and Climate Change Laws in Asia and the Pacific: Train the Trainers Programme” which has been conducted in several Asian countries over the past two years. The OUSL is honoured to be hosting the training programme for Sri Lanka and India.

I would like to thank the Asian Development Bank for funding this programme and the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law for taking the initiative to design and launch it. I welcome our trainers from IUCN and from India who have worked hard over the past few weeks to make this programme a reality. I look forward to working with them and with all the participants and am sure that the next five days will be both productive and enjoyable.

Camena Guneratne
Professor
Department of Legal Studies
Open University of Sri Lanka