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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

MESSAGE

I am pleased to note that the Living Lake Network has organized a workshop with the participation of representatives of several countries focusing on the protection of mangroves system around lagoon in order to ensure the environment protection. Also, I am happy send this message of felicitations for the occasion.


The spread of mangroves in the areas closer to river lagoons is a great blessing to the community live in the close proximity. It helps to prevent the erosion and marks the initiation of a large food chain. Mangroves can be defined as a food storage of many aquatic species. We must explain to the future generation that this ecosystem of fish breeding is a wonderful gift given to us by the nature. Mangroves are the first resort for the migratory birds. It is sad to see that the total extent of the mangroves in our country has come down to 10,000 hectares.

We have a very independent and intellectual tradition of protecting the natural environment. I would like to state that the Buddhism is the abiding philosophy that directs us to protect the entire ecological system.

I would like to emphasize that according to Buddhist teachings even cutting off a branch of a tree is an inimical act. Kutadatta Sutta advises to take measures to preserve flora and fauna when planning state affairs. According to Chakkawaththi Sehanada Sutta, the utmost responsibility of the King is to provide protection to every living being and trees. The Birth, Enlightenment and the Passing Away, the three significant event of the Buddha took place in a natural environment. He delivered the First Sermon amidst the picturesque Mighadaya forest.

Having understood the importance of the preservation of the ecological system it was possible to formulate new laws and regulations to protect wetlands, mangroves and forests, implement practical measures and to enact new laws to declare all the mangroves as Protected Areas for the first time during my tenure. It was also possible to implement strict laws and regulations and to introduce new laws to protect our natural resources and biodiversity and I wish to state that Sri Lanka will commit itself to continue this activities in the region in the future as well.

I express my gratitude to all the delegates who came to Sri Lankan to participate in this workshop and the assistance you render towards my country while wishing the future endeavours of the Living Lake Network every success.


Maithripala Sirisena

24, October 2019



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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
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