

## **Abstract of Presentation**

Presentation Title:

**Groundwater Management Issues in Sri Lanka**

Abstract:

The demand for groundwater in Sri Lanka has grown rapidly over the past few decades, mainly as a result of population growth, economic development, and shortages in rainfall. An estimate in 2004 show that nearly 70% of the 20 million population relies on groundwater for their domestic water requirements in the country. As a result groundwater is being over-extracted especially in urban areas, and the available groundwater resource is fast depleting raising many concerns of its future. Therefore in 2005, an investigation on the “Management of Groundwater Resources in Sri Lanka” was initiated in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan. During this study, the groundwater management practices in Sri Lanka was investigated focusing the groundwater use in cities (Colombo and Kandy), groundwater use in agriculture and the impacts by the tsunami on the coastal groundwater reserve to highlight major issues. In addition, rainwater harvesting as a possible alternative to groundwater too was investigated.