

SACEP workshop at BMICH

Senior officials dealing with environment in eight South Asian countries will today commence a Workshop sponsored by the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (S.A.C.E.P.) in the Committee Room "D" of the BMICH.

The Workshop which will be opened by Mr. Y. Y. Kim Resident Representative of the U.N.D.P. in Sri Lanka will discuss in detail the proposed programmes of SACEP during the year and submit proposals for consideration at the first Governing Council meeting of S.A.C.E.P. from January 27th to 29th.

The Governing Council meeting of S.A.C.E.P. which will be a Ministerial level meeting will be declared open by the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa at 10 a.m. on January 27 at the BMICH.

The countries comprising S.A.C.E.P. a body attempting to tackle environmental problems in South Asia in a co-operative effort are India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Iran Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives.

Sri Lanka's delegation to the Governing Council meeting will be led on the first day by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali Minister of Trade and Shipping, the second day by Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands and Land Development and Mahaweli Development and on the third day by Mr. Festus Perera, Minister of Fisheries.

Lanka to enforce environment impact assessment

By M. Z. THAHIR

SRI LANKA will be one of the first members of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme group to take steps to enforce environment impact assessment as from January 1, 1984. The necessary guidelines would be formulated this year and the training of officers both in the public and private sectors to carry out the assessment successfully said Mr. K. H. J. Wijedasa, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Local Government at a Press conference held yesterday at the South

Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) Secretariat at Ward Place Colombo.

It was further revealed by the first Director of SACEP Dr. Leslie Herath that the first Governing Council meeting would take place in Colombo at the BMICH beginning on January 27 to 29.

The Prime Minister MR. R. PREMADASA will inaugurate this ministerial level meeting and deliver the key-note address too. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali Minister of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development and Mr. Festus Perera, Minister of Fisheries too are expected to address the Conference.

Also associated were two high ranking officials from the Pakistan and Bangladesh High Commissions in Colombo.

'Environment' being all-

embracing, impinging as it does on every department of life of the teeming millions living in the region SACEP has an already ongoing programme of action, where the countries have agreed to co-operate and contribute to SACEP to run a modest secretariat. The active help and co-operation from the countries themselves, generously aided by UN Agencies, UNDP and UNEP, has enabled the initiation of projects and programmes in several vital environmental fields.

The forthcoming First Session of the Governing Council will consider several projects and programmes formulated by a high-level technical committee of experts, drawn from the member countries of SACEP and to be executed largely by the countries themselves, with aid from United Nations and other aid giving bodies for crucial inputs.

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