

## Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements

# Lanka has ratified all major international conventions

by Florence Wickramage

Sri Lanka has kept to all its obligations arising out of the commitments under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The Government has also developed national policy documents and action plans to address environmental issues.

This was stated by Environment and Natural Resources Minister Rukman Senanayake in his keynote address at the inaugural session of the five day Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs in Colombo on Sunday.

Minister Senanayake said that Sri Lanka has ratified most of major international

environmental conventions and protocols, such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change, Basal Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, Vienna Convention, Montreal Protocol, Bio-safety Protocol and the Kyoto Protocol etc to demonstrate solidarity to the global community.

Senanayake further added that a Bio-diversity Secretariat, a Climate Change Secretariat, a Convention Reference Centre, a National Air Resources Management Centre and a National Clean Development Mechanism Centre within the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry in order to strengthen the institutional capacity to implement MEAs.

Even though Sri Lanka is not a ODS (Ozone Depleting Substances) producing country relatively small amounts of CFC is used in refrigerators and vehicle air conditioners.

CFC will be phased out in Sri Lanka by 2005, five years ahead of the protocol target for Article 5 countries.

The Government has taken action to control ODS imports by imposing regulatory measures and regulations for controlling imports

of used items containing CFCs, the Minister said.

Director General, SACEP Mahboob Elahi, Legal advisor to the Executive Director Ms. Amy Hindman, Facilitator

Donald Kamaru and Manjit Iqbal from the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific were among the guests present on the occasion.



Director General SACEP Mahboob Elahi speaking at the inaugural session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environment Agreements in Colombo recently. Environment and Natural Resources Minister Rukman Senanayake was the chief guest.