

Sri Lanka commemorated the World Ocean Day today

Sri Lanka commemorated the World Ocean Day today and his Excellency Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was the chief guest. The Marine Environment Protection Agency (MEPA) and the Ministry of Mahaweli and Environment organized the event this morning at the open air theater which was attended by large number of people from all walks of life. His Excellency Mr. Maithripala Sirisena led a Walk from the Town Hall junction to the Gale face which was welcomed by people on its way and this took us over one hour to complete the walk. The objective of the event and walk was to create awareness among the masses about the importance of protecting Oceans. After the Walk the participants also participated in the Indian Ocean Beach cleaning at Nara Beach near Crow Island and Wellawatte beach in the Colombo city neighborhood.



World Oceans Day is a global day of ocean celebration and collaboration for a better future. This year, people all over our blue planet are celebrating with the theme "Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet." Organizations and individuals around the world are promoting prevention of plastic ocean pollution with events in their communities, special announcements, and everything in between.

Member countries of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) including Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are taking part in the World Ocean day commemorations



at national level in joining hands with the global community in this regards. Marine resources are of immense importance to humanity as we earn trillion of dollars annually through sea food, navigation, tourism, trade, sports and livelihoods. The World Wildlife Fund in a recent study has warned that due to pollution the global marine population has been slashed by half since seventies. Another study show that an estimated 5 trillion pieces of plastic currently

float in the world's oceans compared to none in 1950.



Let us commit ourselves in changing our life style in respecting and protecting the mother earth and the marine resources that we inherited from our ancestors and pass on this legacy to the next generation as clean and safe as we had them from our ancestors.

Dr. Muhammad Khurshid
Director General (SACEP)