

## Local News

1. **Sampur Power Project – Still Delayed:** Treasury officials will hold crucial discussions with the officials of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) of India in Colombo next week, to iron out the financial disparities in the forthcoming 500 MW Sampur Power Project in Trincomalee, some senior officials of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) said.  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=88407](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=88407)
2. **CEB Treats Renewable Energy Suppliers Poorly and Cover Up Losses:** The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) has, over the past two years, lost nearly 100MW from unconventional renewable energy sources, while paying nearly Rs. 200 million to cover up that loss with costly thermal power.  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=88691](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=88691)
3. **Clean Power - Biomass Electricity Generation Alternative Launched:** A new climate change mitigation project to promote sustainable biomass energy production and modern bio-energy technologies in Sri Lanka commenced with an inception workshop on September 17, 2013. The project is aimed at supporting Sri Lankan industries to meet energy needs from locally sourced fuel wood derived through sustainable practices, instead of imported furnace oil, kerosene and diesel.  
[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=88656](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=88656)
4. **Minister Recognizes Importance of Renewable Energy:** Adding power generated by renewable energy sources to the national grid must be paid more attention, Environment and Renewable Energy Minister Susil Premajayantha said.  
<http://www.dailynews.lk/local/renewable-energy-power-too-should-be-fed-national-grid-susil#sthash.593Gb6sO.dpuf>
5. **Major Oil Companies May Bid in Sri Lanka for Oil, Gas:** Sri Lanka expects to award 13 exploration blocks in the Cauvery and Mannar basins off its northwest coast in the first quarter of 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/26/oil-exploration-srilanka-idUSL4N0HM2S820130926>
6. **Questions Over Amnesty Granted for Wildlife Offences:** Environmentalists claimed that since the Minister's decision was announced about providing licences to illegally abducted elephants, attempts to abduct elephants are already being reported from Yala, Habarana and Galgamuwa. He also said that they have received news of a group that has camped outside a forest area in Anuradhapura to abduct elephant calves.  
<http://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/172-opinion/35930-questions-over-amnesty-period-granted-for-wildlife-offences.html>
7. **Severe Water Shortages Loom in Jaffna:** Climate change, over-extraction of groundwater due to resettlement and with no rivers flowing through the peninsula, its aquifers are fast depleting. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130922/news/severe-water-shortage-looms-in-jaffna-63294.html>
8. **Del Monte to Set Up Shop in Sri Lanka?:** California-based food and beverages company Del Monte is evaluating options to enter Bangladesh and Sri Lanka markets through FieldFresh Foods, 50:50 joint venture between Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Enterprises and Del Monte Pacific.  
[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/del-monte-to-enter-bangladesh-sri-lanka-113092400981\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/del-monte-to-enter-bangladesh-sri-lanka-113092400981_1.html)
9. **Agrochemicals Confirmed as Source of Ground Water Pollution:** Water Resources Board (WRB) Director General R.S. Wijesekare revealed that chemical compounds such as Nitrates, Phosphates and heavy metals were found in excess in many places in the districts they

surveyed. The survey covered Jaffna, Ampara, Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Matale and Gampaha districts. Excessive Nitrate compounds were in samples taken from Kalpitiya and Jaffna, while Phosphate was in abundance in samples taken in Ampara. In samples from Anuradhapura, heavy metals such as Arsenic were found in quantities exceeding standard levels, he confirmed. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130922/news/excessive-use-of-agrochemicals-pollutes-groundwater-in-many-places-63297.html>

10. **WHO Identified Cadmium and Pesticides as the Root Cause of Kidney Disease:** The World Health Organization (WHO) Coordinator, Chronic Diseases Prevention and Management (WHO-CCDPM), Prof. Shanthi Mendis, on Thursday (26), identified exposure to low levels of cadmium through food and pesticides, as the causative factors for the Chronic Kidney Disease of Uncertain Aetiology (CKDu). [http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=88954](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=88954)
11. **Indians Throw Away 30% of Their Catch Due to Destructive Fishing Techniques:** As much as one-third or more than 30 per cent of the fish caught by Indian poachers in Sri Lankan waters is dumped back into the sea as 'waste fish' as the fishermen engage in internationally banned IUU (Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported) fishing practices. <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130929/news/indians-throw-away-30-of-their-catch-64346.html>
12. **Water Pollution in Galways Land National Park:** A recent investigation by Rainforest Protectors volunteers found out that polluted wastewater from near by line houses are diverted and discharged illegally to the national park. According to some sources, the situation has become worse with the recent construction of a new tourist hotel adjacent to the houses. The pollution is clearly evident by pictures taken below on August 14, 2013. There is no proper drainage or wastewater treatment system in place. Visitors to this national park are complaining about severe stench due to the polluted water. <http://www.rainforestprotectors.org/rainforest/documents/campaigns/Pollution%20at%20Galways%20Land%20National%20Park.htm>

## International News

1. **Pressure mounts to cap airline emissions:** Given both the type of fuel it burns and the altitude at which its planes operate, in addition to its massive growth in recent decades, the airline industry is one of the single largest contributors of greenhouse gases. Analysts suggest that if it were a country, the industry would be the seventh-largest global polluter. <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/09/pressure-mounts-to-cap-airline-emissions/>
2. **Going all out with renewable energy:** After a monster tornado wiped out Greensburg, Kansas in 2007, killing 11 people, the community decided to rebuild with meaning. It set out to become one of the world's greenest communities. Eight nations are 100 percent renewable or moving in that direction: Denmark, Iceland, Scotland, Costa Rica, Maldives Islands, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, and Tokelau. Add 42 cities, 49 regions, 8 utilities and 21 organizations, and going 'all green' looks like a bona fide trend. <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/09/going-all-in-with-renewable-energy?cmpid=SolarNL-Saturday-September28-2013>
3. **India to build "ultra-mega" solar power plant:** India's government has unveiled plans to build an "ultra mega" 4 GW solar power plant in the northwestern state of Rajasthan. According to the government, the plant will be built on a 23,000-acre (9308 ha) site close to Sambhar Lake, about 75 km from Jaipur, the state capital. <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/09/india-to-build-ultra-mega-solar-power-plant?cmpid=SolarNL-Thursday-September26-2013>
4. **Activists target major snack makers over 'conflict' palm oil:** Environmental activists have launched a major campaign targeting 20 of the largest snack food companies that use palm

oil in their products. The campaign, led by the Rainforest Action Network (RAN), says that food giants are failing to ensure the palm oil they source does not drive deforestation or worsen social conflict. <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0912-conflict-palm-oil.html?n3ws1ttr#7jBvtAH87AMDC7qP.99>

5. **Zombie coal: Borneo resurrects controversial coal plant:** The Malaysian government is taking another look at building a hugely controversial coal-fired plant in the Bornean state of Sabah, a proposal that was thrown out in 2011 due to a large-scale grassroots movement. The 300 megawatt coal plant would have been built in Lahad Datu on the edge of a wildlife reserve and the state's renowned coral reefs. Reportedly, the government is now considering building the same plant only further south in Tawau, which also lies on the coast. <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0918-hance-sabah-coal-returns.html?n3ws1ttr#8P5Ct5aefa3xChfJ.99>
6. **'Heading towards an ice-free Arctic':** sea ice extent hits sixth lowest on record: Sea ice cover in the Arctic shrank to one of its smallest extents on record this week, bringing forward the days of an entirely ice-free Arctic during the summer. <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0918-gen-arctic-minimum.html?n3ws1ttr#OBR5AE4yjojDhyGM.99>
7. **Geothermal energy better than shale gas?:** The possibility of producing shale gas in some European countries has triggered a very heated debate about the environmental and social impacts of the technique used to extract gas from shale rocks (today only in the US and Canada); this technique is widely known as hydraulic fracturing or fracking. <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/09/geothermal-why-it-is-different-to-shale-gas?cmpid=WNL-Wednesday-September25-2013>
8. **Judge halts construction of Amazon dam on Brazil's Teles Pires River:** A federal judge in Brazil has ordered the suspension of construction activities on the Teles Pires due to shortcomings in the environmental licensing process, including the project's impacts on three local tribes, reports International Rivers. <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0919-teles-pires-dam.html?n3ws1ttr#WMFG11pQ1hB2cDDQ.99>

### ACT!!!

- Join us on Facebook and connect to the latest environmental protection activities: <https://www.facebook.com/feosrilanka>
- Share photos of environmental destruction for awareness video: Email [feoslweb@gmail.com](mailto:feoslweb@gmail.com)
- Recycle your e-waste – drop it off at any Dialog Arcade <http://www.dialog.lk/support/mobile/coverage-service-points/store-locator/>
- Report large scale environmental damage – Tell FEO <http://www.feosl.org/tell-feo/>
- Volunteer with a local environmental organization: Email FEO to connect to an organization that is of interest to you
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