recently), to be "infected" to industry and to all other walks of life. This needs only commitment and encouragement from proper sources including academia and the government. Industry will "get into it" the moment they see its advantage to them. It is necessary to create an 'Innovations explosion'. Graduate engineers and scientists should be converted from employment seekers to employment providers. They should become springs of employment giving employment to others

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Innovation is to bring in novelties or make changes. Innovative step(s) may be small, substantial or major, but it should essentially bring in some form of improvement to the product or the process. If the product so developed is something completely novel, or non-existent earlier, then it is called an 'Invention'. Invention usually is a major step forward in the technology front.

No country or Industry can prosper or even survive without being Innovative. Products and industries have to shift from 'Sunset' to 'Sunrise' and this can be accomplished only through continuous upgrading of them with innovations and innovative design. For Sri Lanka to achieve rapid industrialization it is essential that both 'Factor driven' and 'Investment driven' stages be completed quickly, while simultaneously jumping to the 'Innovation driven' stage.

No idea, concept or discovery is of any use unless and until it is converted to a tangible product. This can be done only through innovative design and each such design is a step forward in technology front of a country. It is the 'Technology base' and not the 'Pure knowledge' that determines the development rate of a country. Thus it is imperative that we shift from academic and pure research to 'Development research' or 'Research for development'. Patents, active as well as **dormant** and **sleeping**, is an ocean of 'Technology seeds' awaiting to be converted to technology for the rapid march of the country to industrialisation. We don't have to re-invent the wheel or waste our resources on basic research, which may be useful for the developed nations, but must take a 'Technological free ride' which was done by all including USA, Japan and NICs as well. So, why not us?

No country or Industry can prosper or even survive without being Innovative.

It is a case of 'Innovate or Perish' in the present context. Shifting of industries or products from sunset to sunrise is essential, and that can be accomplished only through continuous upgrading of them with innovations and innovative design

It is essential to commence 'Innovation driven' stage without waiting to complete 'Factor driven' and 'Investment driven' stages.

To Innovate it is essential to have an inquiring mind with creative thinking. Do not jump to the first solution (to a problem) that comes to your mind. Look for all possible options and select the optimum after extensive analysis. Don't try to find a conceptual design, but arrive at it through proper analysis. Innovative and creative solutions to sub-problems will yield you an innovative design.

Adaptive innovation is very important as most of the innovations come through this path.

Re-engineering is a very cost effective way of technology transfer.

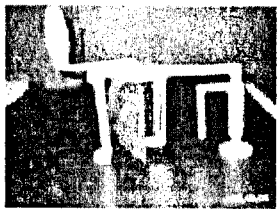
Take a 'Technological free ride' without going for 'basic and/or academic research'.

Development research is essential for Innovations.

Make use of the ocean of 'Technology seeds' available in 'Patents', **active** as well as **dormant** and **sleeping**.

If we are to have a future it is very important to develop a 'Culture of Innovations'.

COCONUT MILK EXTRACTING DEVICE



Simple, easy to operate and low-cost mechanical device to extract coconut milk from scraped coconut is invented by University of Moratuwa.

For more details:

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