

**AN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING APPROACH :
A MICRO LEVEL PROJECT IN THE
COLOMBO URBAN AREA**

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Integration is currently a widely used term and may mean different things to different people. It could be basically classified as Internal and External. Internal integration would mean the integration of elements of sub-systems to achieve managerial efficiency and external integration would mean that the sub-system is a part of a general Socio-Economic and Physical System. Integration could also be classified as explicit or implicit. The former would mean that integration is designed to achieve efficiency of the organisation of the planning system while the latter would mean the integration of the ideological, methodological and information base.

SECTION F

The latter may perhaps be more important than the former in achieving planning objectives. The concept developed in this paper depicts the type of integration that could be achieved in a micro level urban development project.

Since western colonial rule was established in Sri Lanka, Colombo became the primate city and the focal point of the export-import trade based on port activities. As a result of this the city was a major attraction for capital investment. Thus the spontaneous and unplanned development and its growth had created multifarious urban problems related to congestion, concentration, inadequacy of infrastructure facilities in terms of increasing demand from urban activities, under utilization of space in terms of high potential value of land, etc. which had not been solved by the plans which were introduced in successive periods prior to the Colombo Master Plan of 1974.

A pilot project was introduced in Peliyagoda Urban Council area in 1978 incorporating the concept of integrated development approach.

Peliyagoda Integrated Urban Development Project is located in the northern fringe of the City of Colombo, which is approximately 1.8 km from the Colombo City Centre and the Port. Also, it is located at a strategic nodal point in terms of transportation.

At the initial stage an extent of 245 ha of low lying land have been identified for this development, in order to achieve three main objectives *viz.* the relocation of some of the industries and warehouses in the City of Colombo to ease the congestion in the City, development of the under-developed land in the Colombo Urban Area and finally the integration of the development with the local community.

The methodology which has been adopted for the purpose of formulating a planning strategy to achieve the above objectives consists of three activity areas based on (a) a survey related to industrial and warehousing location in the city, (b) identification of strategic locations for the relocation and new development of industries and warehouses, and (c) the development of urban facilities as supporting factors for such development. This is a planning process which consists of 12 stages in achieving the objectives of integrated urban development.

The salient feature of this development process is that it will bring many benefits to an under-developed area of Peliyagoda. It will also integrate the local community with development. Such an integrated development is replicable in other areas.