

ASSESSING SRI LANKA'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NEEDS IN TRANSITION TO A MODERN STATE

Phase I - INFORMATION NEEDS ARISING FROM CURRENT SCENARIO

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Lagging behind in both industrialisation and information Sri Lanka is faced with a double task at hand. If we cannot accelerate the pace of both, the gap between ourselves and the developed countries will widen further. This research proposes and analyses in detail the Information Technology (I.T.) requirements of a policy led scenario for the simultaneous development of Industrialisation and Informatisation.

This first phase of the research studied the information requirements of the National Macro Information system and involved a detailed examination of the existing local knowledge system, both its capacity and its weaknesses, a study of the feasible I.T. related incentives and opportunities for growth and acceleration of the pace of development, and the identification of some of the essential information and networking needs that arise.

The results of the background research are presented in this paper together with the specific information and networking needs that can be derived in respect of the following:

- developing the Human Technological capability i.e. the technical skills for maintaining the information infrastructure and all those other knowledge engineering, entrepreneurial and managerial skills required to operate a modern state and create the transition to export-led growth;
- encouraging I.T. innovation;
- supporting the new industrial strategy;
- strengthening the existing development research base;
- managing the development strategy and providing for both selective interventions and a more informed response to on-going needs.

Phase II of this research will be to examine the various Government policy options and aim to identify a strategy and Core technological requirements arising from the National Information needs identified.