

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

Phase II - POLICY OPTIONS AND REQUIRED STRATEGY AND CORE TECHNOLOGY

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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.

The part of the research was aimed both at identifying the core technological requirements and postulating a strategic Government policy framework for developing a National Macro Information system and stimulating simultaneous industrialisation. It involved a detailed examination of the various policy options, the identification of key technological components of the required I.T. paradigm and a study of the factors that relate to encouraging the diffusion of I.T. and particularly the adoption of an appropriate application development software engineering paradigm. It uses the results of Phase I of the research which established the information and networking needs of the macro system.

The results of the research are presented in this paper. Some very specific application areas are identified where information can have immediate benefits in accelerating the pace of industrialisation. The results also include a strong case for why industrialisation may not take off at all without an effective I.T. strategy.