

C-07: Restoration of Lunawa lagoon: a preliminary study

S Bhuvendralingam

(Dept. of Civil Engineering, Univ. of Moratuwa)

The Lunawa lagoon at Moratuwa, which once supported a variety of human activities such as fishing, recreation and tourism, has now deteriorated into a polluted mass of water devoid of any aquatic life, thus putting a stop to all above mentioned activities and also posing a health hazard to the people of the area. As an initial step in restoring the lagoon quality to a level that can sustain the above mentioned activities, this preliminary study was undertaken

- (a) the pollution sources and their impact on the Lunawa Lagoon;
- (b) the present water quality and hydrodynamic characteristics of the lagoon; *and*
- (c) prioritized activities that should be investigated in a comprehensive study.

The study consisted of 3 main activities:

- (1) Physical survey of the lagoon and its immediate environment. This activity included identifying the location of inflow of pollutants to the lagoon and collection of information from industries and other establishments in the area which were considered as significant sources of pollution of the lagoon;
- (2) Collection and analysis of water quality data from water samples obtained from various locations within the lagoon. The analysis revealed that the major pollution was from industrial waste and erosion. Solid waste dumping taking place within the watershed area may also significantly contribute to the lagoon.

The work reported was presented as a report to the Ministry of Environment.