

C-15: Gravity survey of Sri Lanka: present status and future prospects

T Somasekaram, S D P J Dampegama

(Institute of Surveying & Mapping, Diyatalawa [ISM])

The measurement of gravity and the study of gravity anomalies i.e. the difference between the gravity of an idealised earth and the actual gravity as observed at points on land and the sea, provide an invaluable guide to the structure of the earth below the topographic surface. It is the first and cheapest step in prospecting for minerals, including hydrocarbon reserves. A small survey was done in 1934 and a more detailed survey by a visiting New Zealand surveyor and his co-workers in 1973. In 1993, ISM acquired a La Coste-Romberg gravimeter costing \$ 53,500 (Rs. 2.6 million) from

UNDP funds as part of the project to upgrade the ISM to degree awarding status. The Geodetic Branch of the Survey Department has carried out gravity observations at all the Fundamental Benchmarks in the country, to serve as base stations for future work.