

#### **C-04: Beira Lake as an environmental hazard**

Deepika P Thrimahawitana  
(*Irrigation Office, Matara*)

The Beira lake is located in the city of Colombo, which has a drainage area of 448 ha. The drainage area is highly urbanized and varies with ground levels ranging from -1.0 m to +6.0 m. above M.S.L. This is a man-made shallow body of water connecting the Colombo harbour to the Kelani Gangs via St. Sebastian canal. The harbour end of the lake is connected to the sea by a semi-circular spillway near the old parliament.

Disposal of untreated domestic waste water and industrial waste water containing phosphates, nitrates, heavy metals and oils leads to the large scale pollution of this water body.

This paper highlights topographical features, climate, geology of the drainage area and hydrographic information about the lake. It explains the structural features of the drainage system, water quality and anthropogenic influences on the lake. Several recommendations are made to mitigate this environmental hazard.