

### **Approach to IT based mapping process in Survey Department**

The Survey Department of Sri Lanka has a historical background on surveying and mapping activities of the country for almost two centuries. The organisation is presently functioning in two main divisions such that; Field Survey Division and Mapping Division. Both the divisions are functioning in conventional analogue production system and covering up the national mandate with unfavourable user satisfactions. The Mapping division is elaborating small-scale topographical maps, while the Field division is mainly handling the large-scale plan preparation for state lands.

With understanding these critical factors and realising its vision to the future as "to give the highest priority to satisfy the growing customer demands", the organisation has recently identified its goal as "to produce variety of geo-spatial information".

To overcome this goal, the organisation has also proposed the strategy “to introduce Product Diversity in geo-spatial data production process”.

The initiative of creating Topo-database has already commenced with digitising of available topographic maps of 1:50,000 and 1:10,000 scales.

This paper is focused on problem identification for the unsatisfactory production of the Mapping Division and developing of new IT based mapping process, which facilitates diverse geo-spatial products to satisfy the GIS community and to improve the National Geographic Information Infrastructure. Finally, the presentation elaborates the world trends on Geo-Information Production process as well as the same in Sri Lanka.