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ISSUE 1031

LANDMARK IN INDO - SL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, 500 MW MORE TO NATIONAL POWER GRID

## Sampur power agreement signed

Rasika SOMARATHNA

(DailNews.lk - 07/09/11) - The agreement for the setting up of a 500 MW coal-fired power plant at Sampur, Trincomalee, a joint venture between the state owned NTPC Ltd of India and Ceylon Electricity Board(CEB) of Sri Lanka was signed yesterday, marking a landmark in bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

The power station at Sampur with a total investment of US \$ 500 million, would be Sri Lanka's second coal-fired power plant. The construction is to begin next year and the plant is slated to be commissioned by 2016. The country's first such power plant in Norochcholai has already begun operations. India High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Ashok Kantha yesterday identified it as the largest joint venture between the two nations, to date. Emphasising on its significance, he said that the project would take economic cooperation between the two neighbours to new heights.

The high commissioner recalled that the initiation of the project had been languishing for some time until President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited India in June 2010, where decisions were taken to fast track it's launch without further delay.

As a result NTPC Limited, the largest power generation utility of India and CEB signed the joint venture and shareholder agreement to set up the plant at Sampur yesterday. The agreement was signed by Managing Director cum Chairman of NTPC Arup Roy Choudhury, and CEB Chairman Prof. Wimaladharna Abeywickrema, in the presence of Power and Energy Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka, High Commissioner Ashok Kantha, Indian Power Ministry Secretary P.Uma Shankar, Power and Energy, Ministry Secretary M.C. Ferdinando and other stake holders at Hotel Galadari,

Colombo.

The project is a 50:50 joint venture

between the CEB and NTPC. The government has allocated a 500 acre land in Sampur for the construction of infrastructure. The government would also construct the coal unloading jetty and install related equipment. The Indian government has offered a concessionary



Managing Director cum chairman NTPC Arup Roy Choudhury, and CEB Chairman Prof. Wimaladharna Abeywickrema after signing the agreement. Picture by Roshan Pitipana

line of credit of US \$ 200 million to Sri Lanka to expedite the construction of infrastructure.

The coal for the project is to be imported and supplied by Lanka Coal Company. The capacity of the project may be enhanced by another 500 MW in the future.

The 300 m long jetty with a 700m access way will be designed to ... SEE P14

### Scholarships for UK Students



The Government of Sri Lanka has decided to implement a scheme to offer 100 undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for foreign students. Out of these 100 scholarships, 2 undergraduate and 1 postgraduate scholarships, will be offered to UK students.

Closing date of applications is 30.09.2011.

Please visit: www.srilankahighcommission.co.uk for details.

Sri Lanka High Commission

### COLOMBO COLUMN

By Reggie Fernando  
Please see next weeks paper



### Taprobane Travel Celebrates 32 year Partnership with SriLankan Airlines

The management of SriLankan Airlines London visited the offices of Taprobane Travel in elegant Golden Square, Picadilly, to congratulate the Managing Director, Mr Gamit Ameresekere(3rd from left), Director, Ms. Kamini Rodrigo(far right) and their staff for achieving this milestone.

SriLankan Airlines was represented by Ms Desiree Premachandra(4th from left), the new Country Manager in the the UK, her predecessor Mr Ranjit De Silva(far left), Mr Jeremy Soertsz(2nd from right), Sales Manager and Ms. Meena Rughani(2nd from left), Airport Manager.

Ms. Premachandra while thanking Taprobane for their support, wished the company all the best for the future.

NewsLanka would also like to congratulate both on their continued success and wish them the best for the future.

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