

NSC activities

Professor Michael J. Moravcsik led a group discussion on aspects of Science Policy and Planning at a Seminar held on January 21 and 22 at the American Centre. The seminar was organised by the National Science Council in collaboration with the United States Information Service. The Chairman of the seminar was Dr. R. O. B. Wijesekera, Acting Secretary General of the National Science Council. Professor P. P. G. L. Siriwardene, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Lanka, gave the inaugural address.

The emphasis of the seminar was placed on "Science" rather than "Technology". The functional and practical aspects of Science Policy were the foci of discussion. The objectives of the seminar were:

- to acquaint scientists and policy makers with the status of and methods in Science Policy activities. Special regard was to be paid to the problems of the less developed countries.
- to discuss controversial and open questions pertaining to the building of science in the less developed countries, and
- to survey the status of science development in Sri Lanka.

Practical proposals for the development of scientific activity in the local situation were made by the scientists present.

A seminar on 'Man and his Environment' was held on the 9th March 1976 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. The guest speaker was Dr. Hansjorg Oeltzschner, official of the Bavarian State Authority on Environmental Protection, Federal Republic of Germany. The seminar was sponsored by the National Science Council with the collaboration of the German Cultural Institute. The Chairman was Prof. B. A. Abeywickrema and the inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Osmund Jayaratne, Chairman of the National Science Council.

Dr. Oeltzschner spoke on several aspects of environmental pollution ranging from pollution problems to land development and use. A film on 'Water Pollution' was shown.

Proposals to promote environmental protection for the local scene were discussed and recommendations were made by the scientists present, both for the government and the National Science Council.

CISIR activities

A Seminar was held from the 4th to 6th May to mark the 21st anniversary of the Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Present at the inauguration were the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, Mr. T. B. Subasinghe, members of the diplomatic corps, delegates from local and foreign scientific organisations and entire staff of the CISIR.

The Chairman of the CISIR, Professor P. P. G. L. Siriwardena delivered the welcoming address.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike in her inaugural address said that there is a great need today for scientists to move closer to the farmers in the field, the workers in the factory and the children in their schools. "If the common man is taught to understand the usefulness of scientific work, he will in turn encourage the funding of scientific work" said Mrs. Bandaranaike. She paid a tribute to scientists of the CISIR for developing a method of producing non-toxic manioc flour and for work on substitute flour for producing bread and bakery products which will help the country reduce its flour imports.

Industries and Scientific Affairs Minister, Mr. T. B. Subasinghe said that through the National Science Council efforts were being made to co-ordinate the various disciplines of science into one effort for both research and development.

Dr. Osmund Jayaratne, Chairman of the National Science Council and Mr. S.F. Laurentius, Director of the CISIR also spoke.

The inaugural sessions was followed by talks by the Heads of the different sections of the CISIR.

The Seminar was followed by an Exhibition which went on till the 22nd of May.