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More barge power to our grid

By Tharuka Dissanaik

A Japanese-owned barge-mounted power plant, began commercial operations yesterday, selling power to the national grid. The diesel plant, permanently sunken in the Colombo Harbour has a capacity of 60 Mw. The owning company, Colombo Power (Pvt) Ltd., has signed a 15-year contract with the government to supply electricity. According to the power purchase agreement the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) will be paying approximately US 6 Cents per

kilowatt hour (one unit) at present for the power supplied by the barge-mounted plant.

The new power plant has been operating for nearly two weeks, running reliability tests, supplying electricity to the grid at cost. According to CEB sources the barge-mounted power plant has come into service at a crucial time for the Board. Drastically low reservoir levels have forced the CEB to run all its thermal power plants to meet the demand for electricity. Over 60 per cent of the daily electricity

requirement of 18-19 Gigawatt hours (Gwh) is now met with thermal power.

"This is a brand new power plant, assembled for this project," said Akitsu Odagaki, Chairman and Managing Director of Colombo Power (Pvt) Ltd, a joint venture between Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding and Commercial Corporation, both of Japan.

The barge containing the power plant will be permanently moored in the harbour for the duration of the contract.