

22nd May 2006 Daily News (Appreciations 12P)

S.H.C. de Silva

The day I first met S.H.C. de Silva was on the 1st of April 1996. I would have never guessed that the quiet gentleman sitting in the group of rain water enthusiasts was the president of Institute of Engineers and the former Additional Director of the Irrigation Department. Since then for ten long years he diligently, patiently, and generously gave his time, knowledge and support to take Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (LRWHF) to the present status. He was our first Chairman and was our Chairman before his sudden and unexpected death on the 9th April 2006.

He was a man who has devoted his life to provide water to the people of this country, this is shown in his long service at the Irrigation Department and voluntary service at the LRWHF.

Working closely with him for the last ten years I have learned many

valuable qualities which will treasure and adopt for the rest of my life, and promote others to follow. His meticulous attention to details, has saved me from many blunders and embarrassments. Likewise his technical knowledge and experience was treasured and was relied upon by all his colleagues and associates. His mastery of languages specially, English and French shows that he is a man of many other talents as well. He was a man of integrity, honesty and modesty.

His unexpected demise has left a void which is not easy to fill. We thank you SHC for the valuable contribution given to LRWHF and our society. We wish you safe and blessed journey in Sansara and May you attend Nibbana. Our thoughts and sympathies go to his wife and children.

Tanuja Ariyananda

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