

Only 'green' economy for sustainable development

By Ifham Nizam

Sustainable development is the key to continue positive global development and there can be only one economy within it, which is a green economy, said Environment and Natural Resources Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka said.

Addressing the Sri Lanka Chamber of Pharmaceutical Industry (SLCPI) at a seminar titled 'Global Warming and Green Economy' organized by the Chamber for its members at HNB Towers, Colombo, he said that present day development was invasive and was restricted by the scarcity of resources, environmental degradation and limits to science and technology as well as a market economy focused solely on the present without any thought for the future.

"Fossil fuels are what lends to the functionality of the world economy as 86 percent of present day economic activities are based on oil, gas and charcoal," the Minister said adding that within three decades these resources are predicted to run out and become a rare commodity.

"The development we see now will meet its greatest obstacle in the future with the decline of these resources which are considered the life-blood of any economy," Ranawaka added.

Moreover, he said environmental pollution would lead to the decline in development where

human life itself will be threatened.

"Heat pollution due to excess carbon dioxide enveloping the earth's atmosphere will not only result in the melting of polar ice caps and drastic changes in weather patterns but will lend to the destruction of bio diversity. Over the past millions of years there have been five instances that scientist have recorded this happening and they have predicted that this century will be the sixth instance," which he said

ket economy that involves the environment, those who are alive today and those who are yet to be born. The biggest fault of the market today is that it only thinks of the moment," Minister Ranawaka stressed.

The forum was the first in a series of interactions held to make the SLCPI membership more aware of areas that they can be involved in, especially in the area of corporate social responsibility projects, which are an integral part of their business.



Pollution in Beijing

will involve human beings as well.

The minister added that science and technology has not developed enough to accommodate solutions for the impending problems the earth will face.

"Sustainable Development driven by a green economy is the only way forward," he said adding that Green Evaluation, looking to alternate energy sources and Green Jobs would all lend to this development.

"We need to create a new mar-

"We have to look at ourselves as socially responsible corporate citizens as there is more to this industry than merely positioning ourselves in the corporate world. This industry is more than about just being a marketing exercise. As much as we depend on science and natural resources for the products that we market, we are also open to explore avenues and new opportunities that will serve the environment we live in" said SLCPI president Ananda Samarasinghe.