

02nd June 2006 Daily News (01:16P)

Sri Lankan architects ready to help Nation

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan consultants are ready and willing to lend their services for the Government to reach the goals thorough *Mahinda Chintanaya*, the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) said yesterday.

Responding to yesterday's *Daily News* lead story on 'Local expertise for mega projects', SLIA President Rukshan Widyalkara in a letter to the *Daily News* said they will take a leading role and take up this challenge on areas such as promotion of the development outside the Western Province, even going to the extent of having model villages in each Grama Niladari Division.

"All what we need is the recognition of our efforts, a greater recognition of professionals, a recognition of a clear role in this national cause," Widyalkara said.

"However, it is equally important that the bureaucratic and the administrative apparatus of the Government also facilitate these objectives.

No matter what lofty ideals the policy makers will have if they are not strongly pursued by the next level of the Government machinery, the result is obvious," the letter said.

See page 16

Sri Lankan... from page 01

The Architect charged that there was still procurement of consultants taking place outside Government procedure resulting in higher costs. There are still non-professionals being awarded large scale government projects, some of which are very complicated in nature such as hospitals.

There are many instances where local consultants have been overlooked in foreign funded projects. Some Government agencies were also asking for performance bonds and bank guarantees from consultants not affordable to locals, the SLIA President said.