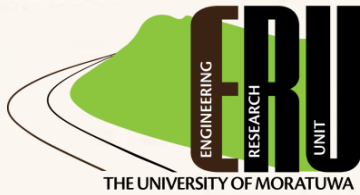


INDIA



**Research  
Dissemination  
Seminar**

**By Dr. N. P. Ratnayake**

**Senior Lecturer in Marine and Petroleum Geology**  
Department of Earth Resources Engineering  
Faculty of Engineering  
University of Moratuwa

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

10.00 a.m. – 10.40 a.m.

Board Room

Faculty of Engineering

# Seminar Series

Organized by the Engineering Research Unit  
Faculty of Engineering

## Review of Sri Lanka's Petroleum Prospects

**Abstract** - History of oil exploration in Sri Lanka dates back to 1957. During 1972-1975, Soviets drilled three exploration wells (Pesalai-1, 2 and 3) in the Pesalai area on the Mannar Island of Sri Lanka. Later, Palk Bay-1 and Delft- in 1976 and Pedro-1 and Pearl -1 in 1981 were drilled by different consortia. However, all these wells were plugged and abandoned as dry holes, leading oil exploration in Sri Lanka into dormancy. Most of these wells had drilled into structural highs of the **Cauvery Basin**, of which the adjacent Indian Jurisdiction is productive for both oil and natural gas now. Geology of the Cauvery Basin has been addressed in detail by Cantwell et al. (1978) and Chandra and Venkataraman (1988). petroleum potential (Baillie et al., 2003). In 2007, the Government of Sri Lanka held its first offshore exploration licensing round. As a result, the exploration block SL 2007-01-001 was offered to Cairn Lanka Private Limited (Cairn) in 2008. Cairn drilled three exploration wells during August-December 2011 and discovered natural gas from first two wells. The objective of this presentation is to discuss the petroleum geology of the **Mannar Basin** based on the result of petroleum exploration in Sri Lanka and to assess university roll exploitation of Petroleum resources

**Bio** - Dr. Nalin Prasanna Ratnayake graduated from the University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka obtaining a B.Sc. (Special) Degree with an Upper Second class in Geology (Subsidiary - Chemistry) (Jan 1992 to March 1996) and a M.Sc. in Geology (The natural and anthropogenic effects on the Negombo and Lunawa lagoon environments during the last 100 years studied using organic geochemical techniques) from the Shimane University, Japan (Oct 1997 to Oct 1999). He obtained his Ph.D. in Geology (Ocean-land linkage between Pacific Ocean and the mid-latitudes, studied using the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering sea piston core sediments) from the Hokkaido University, Japan (April 2000 to Dec 2004). From the month of March 2005, he has been working as a Senior Lecturer in Marine and Petroleum Geology attached to the Department of Earth Resources Engineering, Faculty of Engineering University of Moratuwa

For more information : contact Prof. S. R. Munasinghe (Director ERU) or Mrs. M. S. Munhenage (Scientific Assistant ERU) on 0112 650301 ext 3044 or [eru-secretary@uom.lk](mailto:eru-secretary@uom.lk)



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