



It's a great pleasure to welcome you all at this closing ceremony of the **"LED Lighting Seminar for Manufacturers in South Asia"** conducted by the Regional Centre for Lighting hosted within the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority. Dear Minister, we have seen your commitment and swift

action to have the Sri Lankan power sector back on its feet. We are honoured to have you here with us at this great moment.

I welcome the secretary of the Ministry of the Power and Energy, Mr. M.M.C. Ferdinando who has been a part of the team which initiated Regional Centre for Lighting, making it is a part of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority. And do welcome all the ministry officials.

We have here today Ms. Rebecca Cohn, the Mission Director for USAID in Sri Lanka with us. A warm welcome to you Madam, Regional Centre for Lighting is one of the three centres of excellence planned under the SARI/E program of USAID and we are fortunate to have one established in Sri Lanka, within our institution. You may have been happy to see the progress it has made.

Also a very warm welcome to the Dr. Narendan and all the faculty members of the Lighting Research Centre. Your commitment to make this happen has been a tower of strength to us.

I do welcome all the utility and energy sector officials, representatives of the lighting industry, mainly from the private sector, all the participants, we have foreign participants too here, and all the distinguished invitees.

I think you have noticed the setting here is somewhat different than the places you usually visit. I am happy to say that this is the area we plan to set up lighting centre facilities, a world-class training facility, a demonstration centre and a photometry laboratory. As you know, we have introduced regulations to the lighting industry, but

we find our laboratory capacity is not geared to cope up. Once established, the RCL Lab will be an independent laboratory,, which provide services to all sectors, manufacturers, regulators, consumers and it will have facility to test LEDs as well. The demonstration centre will have different types of lighting technologies demonstrated and having facility for the students and practitioners to further their knowledge in lighting.

This is the third training program RCL conducted with its knowledge partner, Lighting Research Centre and the first one focusing only on the solid state lighting and targeting manufacturers. You all know, there is much of talk on energy efficient lighting technologies these days, and LEDs come into the mention almost all the occasions. So we thought it is very important to equip personnel in this part of the world to reap greater benefits of this new emerging technology to get the best usage of it to create economic development.

So we do believe all of you will be with us, in taking the concepts of rational use of lighting forward, help develop RCL and be benefitted by its services.