

Temporal changes of water consumption pattern of Beire Lake and its effects to the image of Colombo city

MR Gunawardhana¹ PA Gunasekara¹ and S. Jayaratne¹

Beire Lake is an identical land mark of the Colombo city. From the Portuguese era it has been used to enhance the built environment, its glory given a significant contribution to foam a favourable image to the city. A favourable image of a city is very important to attract investors, immigrants and tourists to enhance their competitive position in attracting or retaining resources. But redesigning an area or changing of a prominent landmark or changing of a quality of most sensible natural environs is influencing the image of the city within the collective memory of the inhabitants negatively or positively. Leading to a great change in appearance of Beire Lake and its water quality, the water consumption pattern of Beire Lake had changed after the British era due to the haphazard development which taking place in Colombo city. At present the Lake is neglected and deteriorated the physical quality leading for an unfavourable image to the city. Leaders of many cities consider unfavourable image of their cities are obstacles that prevent the development. Although there were no of research attempts pertaining to all the watercourses in the Colombo Metropolitan Region (CMC), no attempt has been made to do a comprehensive study how that quantitative and qualitative changes of Beire Lake effect to the City image. Therefore the overall aim of this research is to study the temporal changes of water consumption pattern of Beire Lake and its effect to the city image. It identifies the existing position of the Beire Lake among other imageable elements, and studies the evolution of Beire Lake and its contribution to enhance the city image, including existing problems of Lake that affects to the city image, finally assess the development plans of the CMC and its contribution to develop the Beire Lake and city image.

Key words: Image, Water fronts, Consumption of water, Beire lake, Planning implications

¹Department of Town & Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, Katubedha, Sri Lanka