

Mailvaganam Memorial Oration – 2005

2005 lecture was delivered by

Prof. Dammika A. Tantrigoda,

Professor of Physics, Department of Physics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, on

An Approach to Risk Assessment and Mitigation of earthquakes and Tsunamis.

Summary:

Over the years, Sri Lanka earned a reputation as a safe country with regard to natural disasters. Unfortunate incidents of 26 December 2004 demand us to re-think about this notion seriously and examine the possibility of such incidents recurring in the future. How much Sri Lanka is vulnerable for extreme natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis and an approach for risk assessment and mitigation of such disasters will be discussed in the lecture. Special attention will be paid on the possibility of destructive earthquakes originating in the Central Indian Ocean where formation of a new plate has been speculated and on reservoir induced earthquakes.