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New SACEP Director General assumes duties

DR. Ananda Raj Joshi, of the Ministry of Population and Environment of the Government of Nepal has assumed duties as the Director General of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Colombo.

He succeeds Mr. Hussain Shihab, Deputy Minister of Planning, Human Resources and Environment of the

Government of the Republic of Maldives.

Dr. Joshi an expert in environmental management was appointed as the Director General by the environment ministers of South Asia, at the 7th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP held in the Maldives on April 22.

SACEP is an inter-governmental organisation of eight member states, namely: Afghan-

istan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It came into being with the adoption of the Colombo Declaration and the Articles of Association at the First South Asian Environmental Ministers Meeting for the establishment of SACEP held in Colombo in 1981.

The aims and objectives of SACEP are to

promote and support the protection and enhancement of the environment of South Asia individually, collectively, and cooperatively and to encourage the judicious use of the resources of the environment with a view to alleviating poverty, reducing socio-economic disparities and improving the quality of life of the people.

The Government of

Sri Lanka has provided generous host facilities for the running of the Secretariat in Colombo.

The institutional costs are borne by the member states through annual country contributions. SACEP has been receiving generous project funding from both bilateral and multilateral donor agencies.

Among the priority projects currently being implemented are en-

vironmental legislation, environment management, floral and faunal biodiversity conservation, environmental capacity building,

environmental training, management of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) for UNEP and Management of the SACEP Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC) for UNEP.