



THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA

Ancient Works, Modern Systems: Sri Lanka's Irrigation Heritage By **Eng. Badra Kamaladasa**

The Monthly Lecture Series No: 183 of the National Trust

Wednesday 28th October 2026 at 6.00 pm

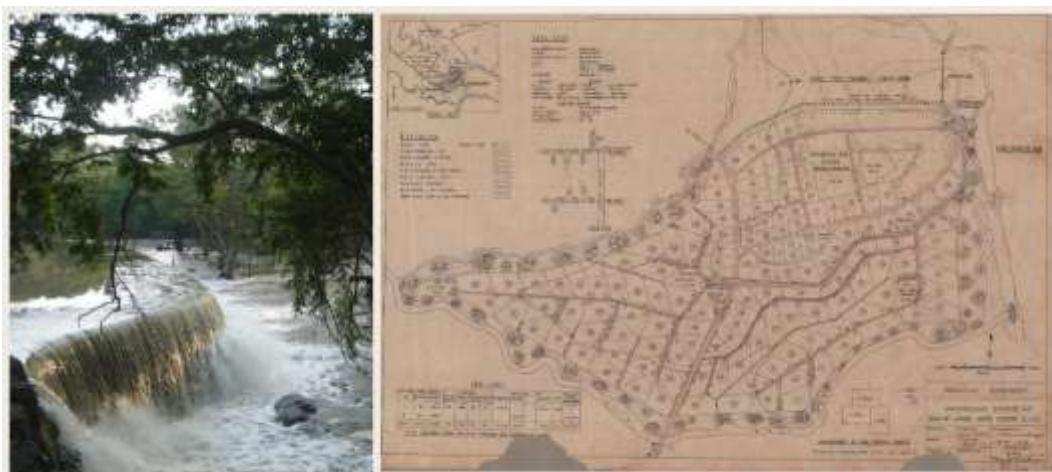
at the Auditorium of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka

No. 6, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7

(For those who join online: <https://www.youtube.com/live/vjr-Zrug0y8>)

Drawing on insights from her new book: *Irrigation Heritage of Sri Lanka*, Eng. Badra Kamaladasa brings together maps, architectural drawings, physical ruins, restoration records, and hands-on expertise to build a picture of Sri Lanka's historic water management practices. Through detailed case studies, the lecture highlights how ancient engineers adapted to the natural terrain – constructing interconnected reservoir networks, managing water distribution, and controlling floods – as well as how subsequent generations preserved and expanded these works. Key topics range from ancient sluice technologies to the continuity between historical and modern infrastructure, revealing the immense technical knowledge and labor behind Sri Lanka's dams, canals, and anicuts.

Irrigation Heritage of Sri Lanka, authored by Eng. Badra Kamaladasa, published by The National Trust - Sri Lanka, will be launched prior to the lecture.



Eng. Badra Kamaladasa holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Moratuwa and a Master of Engineering Science from the University of Melbourne. She retired in 2015 as Director General of Irrigation after 36 years of government service, and now works as an independent consultant in water governance, dam safety and institutional frameworks. She has authored over 35 technical papers and two major publications on Sri Lanka's irrigation development and modern reservoirs, and has represented Sri Lanka at international forums on irrigation heritage.

The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures generally on the last working Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the general public.

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel.0112682730/ 0719566929