



**THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA**

***“Man-made Waterways of Sri Lanka’s Colonial Past: Conservation and its Potential Benefits”***

**By**

**Dr. Nilan Cooray**

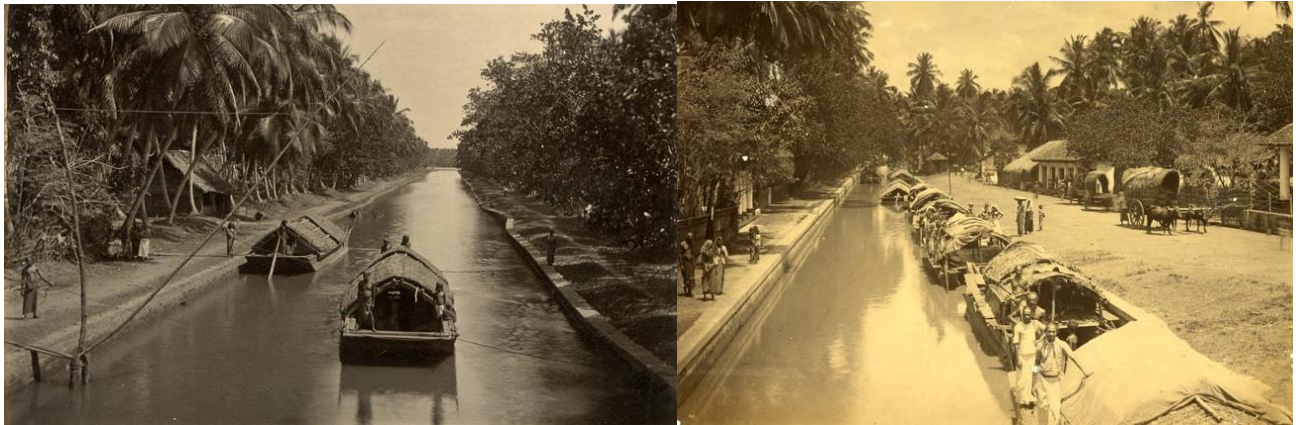
**The Monthly Lecture Series No: 151 of the National Trust**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 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://bit.ly/3CD5UQg>)

Sri Lanka’s hydraulic engineers of the classical historical period had mastered the science and techniques of conveying water mainly for agricultural purposes in the dry zone. However, it was the occupying colonial engineers who developed the waterways in the maritime provinces for multiple uses, by taking full advantage of natural water bodies such as rivers, streams, inland lakes and lagoons within Sri Lanka’s flat coastal landscapes. Compared to other monuments such as fortifications and buildings constructed during this period, due to visibility above ground, the waterways of the colonial past are less visually dominant in the landscape and hence are less researched, documented and conserved. The lecture will focus on the historic development of the network of these waterways made during Sri Lanka’s colonial past, their historic utilitarian values, current state of preservation, and how this lesser known heritage resource could be used for social and economic benefits of the country through conservation.



Dr. Nilan Cooray is a chartered architect and a heritage conservationist by profession. He obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate training in both Architecture and Conservation from University of Moratuwa, and holds a Ph.D. from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. He served at the Central Cultural Fund and as an international expert/ consultant for a number of projects in several countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia and Africa, funded or implemented by UNESCO, ICOMOS, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the European Union. Dr. Cooray is currently the Chairman of the Galle Heritage Foundation and also serves as the Heritage Conservation Specialist for a project to conserve the fortifications of Fort Frederick in Trincomalee, a project financed by the Asian Development Bank. He is also a visiting lecturer for several universities and has published several books and articles on heritage conservation. He is the current Secretary General of the National Trust - Sri Lanka and the Senior Vice President of ICOMOS (Sri Lanka).

**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. The HNB Sustainability Foundation is the principal sponsor of the events of the National Trust – Sri Lanka.**

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