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EVALUATION OF THE READINESS OF SRI LANKA TO BE A MEMBER OF GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

CRITICAL KNOWLEDGE FACTOR ANALYSIS OF SRI LANKA



The dissertation was submitted to the Department of Computer Science & Engineering of the University of Moratuwa in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Business Administration.

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December 2005

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Declaration Form

I hereby declare that;

I have sincerely endeavored to produce a research report of outstanding academic quality with age long importance to the economic development of Sri Lanka. I have produced this document by myself without having outside assistance except from the people and documents I quote and also I have not copied this report from other papers or documents available, except where I have explicitly stated. I also certified that the work in this dissertation in part or whole has not been submitted for any other academic qualification at any institution.

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Abstract

Utilization ICT and Knowledge in economic applications are becoming the most important assets by outperforming traditional capital intensive, technology intensive or labor intensive comparative advantages of any country. The power of this transformation can be recognized in terms of its impact on knowledge sharing, dissemination and utilization in socio economic behaviors of any country. When the knowledge and knowledge outcomes are having major impact on all the human activities, then that economy can be identified as a Knowledge Society. This study was conducted to evaluate the nature, status and competence of Sri Lanka as a developing country to face this rising wave of Knowledge Society and potential to regain the economic development that has been there as better economy in South-East Asia. Study used a benchmarked indicator framework by developing both quantitative and qualitative indicators to evaluate the prerequisites to be a knowledge society and outcomes of a knowledge society. According to literature review and comprehensive analysis more than thirty (30) indicators study found that In South-East Asian region Rep. of Korea is the best knowledge society while Singapore, Malaysia, and also India are showing great potential of be competitive global knowledge societies. Rather than having emerging enthusiasm on mobile technology and modern CDMA technology, Sri Lanka still does not show any specific urgency. adaptation or greater enthusiasm to be a knowledge society in terms of knowledge creation, dissemination and utilization of knowledge in economic activities. There are no identifiable solid interrelations between each pre-requisite and also between the outcomes in Sri Lanka. They were trying to develop as isolated sections. That was the reason why that, social factors such as health and general education are at satisfactory level in Sri Lanka but economic performances far away from emerging Asia. By implementing recommended strategies of the study Sri Lanka is expected to make economic interlinks between every section of the country that would be compulsory to be a competitive global knowledge society.

Acknowledgement

The report covers an area that is very novel to Sri Lanka and had very little attention from researchers in Sri Lanka. Due to the novelty and lack of previous work those related to the topic in Sri Lanka and available studies are vastly incompatible with Sri Lankan context I came a cross ample of blind tunnels during this study. During this complicated journey I have had invaluable support from various people. Without their sincere support I would unable to complete the task sufficiently. I would like to express my sincere thanks to some of the individuals who gave me remarkable support on this effort.

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