

## **RICHARDSON ENGINEERING EXTENDS ITS EXPERTISE IN LIGHTING UP THE NORTH AND UVA**

While people living in the cities and suburban areas of Sri Lanka enjoy access to electricity, as well as the convenience and comfort that it offers, the inaccessible rural areas of the country are yet to enjoy this vital necessity, thereby denying its residents the right to economic development, as well as academic and social advancement. They currently use kerosene for lighting up their homes which poses the added danger of 'bottle lamp' mishaps.

It is in this context that H. E. President Mahinda Rajapaksa articulated his vision in the 'Mahinda Chinthanaya' in electrifying 100% of Sri Lanka's inaccessible rural areas by the year 2013. The Government has already set aside Rs. Rs. 25,994 million for this purpose and many rural electrification projects have already been completed or are nearing completion. A major focus of this programme has been the Northern and Uva Provinces, which were lagging behind in terms of rural electrification. Massive projects have already been undertaken under 'Uthuru Vasanthaya' (Wadakkil Wasantham), concentrating on the Jaffna peninsula, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaithivu districts. 400 such schemes are being implemented at a cost of Rs.8000 million. Certain districts in the Northern Province have already seen a seven-fold increase in rural electrification during the past 18 months.

Rural electrification of the Uva province under 'Uva Udanaya' aims to provide electricity to over 800 villages at a cost of about Rs. 4000 million, linking 80,000 new households through a Low Voltage network of 2,250 km, which will also meet the needs of Small, Medium and Large-Scale Industries.

Richardson Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, is an active partner in the Government's rural electrification programme, taking a leading role in Rural Electrification process. The company has invested in a pre-stressed concrete manufacturing facility in Puttalam with the objective of manufacturing of pre-stressed concrete poles, which are a vital component in rural electrification. While being lighter and stronger than conventional pre-cast concrete poles, they offer considerable cost savings by requiring less concrete for their manufacture. The facility also uses locally sourced coconut shells for its built-in steam curing process, resulting in increased cost-savings and mutually-beneficial utilization of a local waste product.

In addition to pre-stressed concrete poles, this facility also has the capacity to manufacture pre-stressed beams, slabs and walls, which will be highly beneficial in meeting the demands of Sri Lanka's construction industry in the future.

Over the years, has been Richardson Projects (Pvt) Ltd, a subsidiary of Richardson Holdings has been instrumental in providing Medium and High Voltage electrical solutions to the Sri Lanka Electricity Board and Lanka Electricity Company (LECO), as well as diversifying into Low Voltage Switch Gear and environmentally friendly lighting solutions. Richardson Projects has been a longstanding partner of the Ceylon Electricity Board in providing power transmission, generation and distribution network solutions in a number of projects of national significance. These include: Kukule Ganga Project, Upper Kotmale Project, Kilinochchi – Chunnakam Transmission line, Medium voltage express line, Horana – Paragasthota project, Unnaruwa – Katunayake project, Beliatta – Hakmana project, Rantambe – Mahiyangana project, Conflict Affected Areas – RE6 project

As mentioned by ..... Head of Richardson Engineering stated that, 'While providing electricity to households in villages, rural electrification also helps increase the economic prosperity of these areas. It opens up opportunities in agriculture and industry, as well as self-employment in lucrative Small and Medium-scale industries, as well as cottage industries such as carpentry, weaving, garments and poultry, as well as agriculture related activities mainly irrigation, threshing paddy, rice milling, grinding and processing of agricultural produce .Hence Richardson is proud to be an active indirect partner in the development process of Sri Lanka''

Richardson Engineering is a subsidiary of the Richardson Group, a pioneer and established player in Sri Lanka's power sector. Other subsidiaries of the Group include Richardson Distributors (Pvt) Ltd, which markets a wide range of electrical products and CFL bulbs; Richardson Projects (Pvt) Ltd, which represents leading international brands of high and medium voltage electrical equipment, mainly to the construction industry; and Richardson Outdoor (Pvt) Ltd, which has entered into long-term contracts with the Colombo Municipal Council on outdoor advertising solutions.

Richardson was also awarded the ISO 9001 – 2000 Quality System Standard certification in 2007, in addition to the ICTAD EM-1 category certification.