SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is an island situated in the tropics, at the Southern tip of the Indian sub-continent. The Ozone Layer is naturally thin over the tropics, without much seasonal change and as such UV-B reaching the earth surface in our region is expected to be high. As such, UV-B measurements at ground level are necessary, especially in the tropics, not only during a particular season but also throughout the year.

It was accepted at various meetings; Ozone Research Managers Meetings, Meeting of Parties to the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, ODS Officers Network Meeting that monitoring stations of UV-B and total column Ozone need to be increased in the tropics. There are still data sparse regions, and, being at the Southern tip of a large continent with a vast ocean to the South, extending to the South Pole, Sri Lanka is ideally situated to set up a fully pledged monitoring station.

Sri Lanka has taken some steps and still is in the process of obtaining instruments to set up a few stations to measure UV-B. Although it is not related to the ozone layer, Sri Lanka maintains records of Ozone concentrations in Colombo City in relation to air pollution.

The Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka has purchased two single channel light sensors from UK manufacturers. This Pyranometer contains a UV-B sensor, which records continuously. The Meteorology Department installed these two instruments at Higurakgoda, Central Part of the country, and at Ratmalana close to Colombo about one year ago. Unfortunately the instrument at Ratmalana is out of order though some data is available from the Higurakgoda station. Data will be analyzed in the future and it is noticed that there are values in the range of 1.9 Wm^{-2}.

In the mean time the Physics Dept. of the University of Colombo is making arrangements to set up an instrument for research work at the Department.

Sri Lanka is in need of assistance to set up a network of stations for recording and research. With such an observing network it will be possible to supply ground truth data to supplement satellite measured global coverage.

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