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Secretaries of Ministries
Chief Provincial Secretaries
Heads of Departments
Heads of Public Corporations and Statutory Boards

Earth Hour 2018
From 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on 24th Saturday of March 2018

Green gas emission due to direct or indirect activities of the man is on the rise and as a result, the entire world is facing climatic changes. For the purpose of drawing the attention of the world leaders towards reducing this green gas emission which has become a threat to the existence of life on earth, around 2.2 million of people in Sydney, Australia marked an hour in darkness turning off electric lights for one hour on 31st March 2007. It was named as the “Earth Hour” and it is organized as a global event by the World Wide Fund for nature.

02. One year ago, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Wide Fund came to an agreement to make a collective effort to achieve the target 1 out of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets introduced at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in 2010 for implementing the aims of the Convention on Biological Diversity with more success, which is “By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.” Further they have decided to implement a series of remarkable and novel awareness programmes on biodiversity within the three years from 2018 to 2020 based on the Earth Hour programme in which a large number of people from the grass-root level participate.

03. Accordingly, as a member country of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Sri Lanka has the responsibility to join hands with this programme and the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, as the center for this Convention, is assigned with the responsibility of implementing national programmes to mark this event, Earth Hour. It is a globally acknowledged fact that the climate change is also one cause for damages that occur for biodiversity at present. The rich biodiversity in our country is also under threat due to this factor.

04. Accordingly, it is expected to get the volunteer participation of all the Ministries and government institution in the island as well as public servants totalling 1.3 million for this event of Earth Hour which is from 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on 24th of March 2018. Therefore, it is hereby kindly requested to provide your contribution to mark this event by turning off non-essential lights in your institution during this hour mentioned above, as an initial step for a long term programme of reducing unnecessary power consumption at national level. Further you are kindly requested to take action to make all the public servants in your institution aware on this event and get their volunteer contribution.

Sgd./ J.J.Rathnasiri
Secretary
Ministry of Public Administration and Management