

Information on Meteorological Observatories in Sri Lanka

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The systematic official Meteorological station network of Sri Lanka was established in 1865. At present there are 22 main Meteorological Observatories, 38 Agro-Meteorological stations, 35 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) including some main Meteorological Observatories, and more than 500 rain-gauges maintained by the Colombo main Meteorology Department, various Governmental Organizations (GOs) and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) across the country.

Many university researchers obtain climatic data from the above stations for conducting climate-related studies on Sri Lanka. The Department of Geography of the University of Peradeniya offers climate related courses for undergraduates as well as postgraduates. It is very important to obtain accurate and up-to-date climatic data (period of the climate data availability, type of climatic parameters and the observation areas) for these purposes. As there is no proper climatic data information available even in the Meteorology Department at Colombo, obtaining up-to-date climatic parameters is very difficult for students as well as staff at the University of Peradeniya when they carry out climatic studies. Therefore, the main objective of this study was to make a small pamphlet of climatic observations based on the data collected from various reports, websites, field observations, and discussions with relevant officers of the observation stations. Based on this information, and up-to date information pamphlet was prepared, fulfilling the main objectives of this project.

The prepared pamphlets will be used as teaching material for the relevant courses at the Department of Geography. Copies of the pamphlet will be distributed free of charge to Geography students, some selected Meteorological Observatories visited by the author, Main Library of the University of Peradeniya, library of the Geography Department, and researchers at the University of Peradeniya and other institutions who require this information. This information could be up-dated by the author regularly.