AN EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – SRI LANKA

A PROJECT REPORT PRESENTED BY

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To the Board of Study in Statistics and Computer Science of the

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

*in partial fulfillment of the requirement
for the award of the degree of*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

of the

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

SRI LANKA

2007

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The responsibility of providing Education opportunities to the younger generation in Sri Lanka lies mainly with the Government. These opportunities are provided with a wide network of nearly 10,000 schools which is spread throughout the island. As this system involves more than four million children and nearly 200,000 teachers as well as a large number of officials and offices it is essential to have an efficient data collection and data management system to monitor implementation and to take meaningful decisions. A well developed and an efficiently managed Management Information System (MIS) is therefore vital.

The Ministry of Education has been collecting data from schools and has built up a 'Database' over a half century. Attempts had been made from time to time to improve this MIS to meet the requirements of the education system. However these repeated attempts have not been completely successful. The recurring problems with the existing system are: cumbersome data collection methods, inaccuracy of data, delays in collection and processing of data, unavailability of up-to-date and information and unsatisfactory dada management. Hence it is proposed that a new EMIS be installed to satisfy the present needs and with capabilities to expand to cater to the future needs. However, only the Ministry component of the EMIS is discussed in this research paper.

The proposed system introduces a more efficient procedure for data collection from schools and data entry, processing and data validation at provincial level by downloading the data formats of the central database in the ministry. This database will be updated regularly by the provincial departments to provide most up-to-date data and information for decision making. Database will be open for access to any interested party through the official web link of the ministry. Each province will be given facilities to update and modify data pertaining to their province. Necessary hardware, system software and application software are described in the body of the report along with the proposed processes and procedures. Then limitations that the proposed system may inherit and the future development strategies are also discussed in detail.